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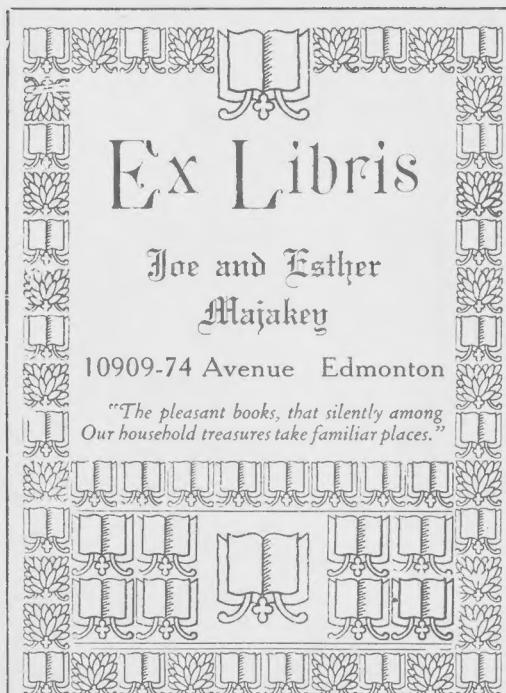
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T R A I L



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Joe and Esther  
Majakey

10909-74 Avenue Edmonton

*"The pleasant books, that silently among  
Our household treasures take familiar places."*

## *Dedication*

 HIS BOOK, edited by The Camrose Canadian, for publication and distribution by the Lions Club of Camrose, is dedicated to the memory of the many pioneers who battled the elements of nature, suffered many discouragements, yet hewed for themselves and their children a grand heritage of productive farms, fine homes, progressive schools and sacred places of worship. The authors fully realize that it is not the complete story, but it is a marvellous picture of the brave people in a new land, where racial backgrounds become submerged in the level of a single common purpose.

Tribute must be paid to the Staff of The Camrose Canadian and its many correspondents for compiling the material contained in this publication. This and much more is being preserved in The Canadian's archives for future reference.

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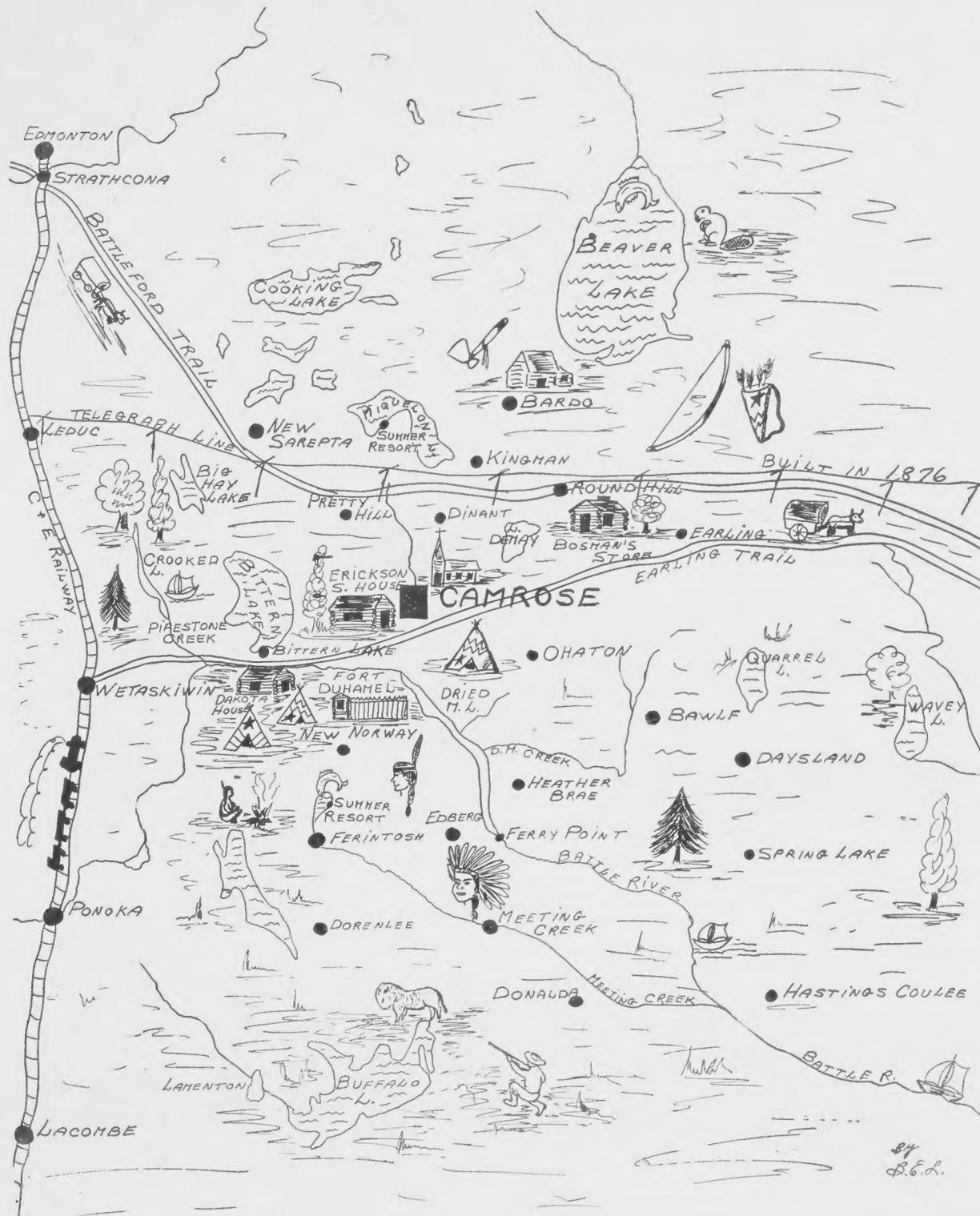
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# CAMROSE and AREA -- 1905



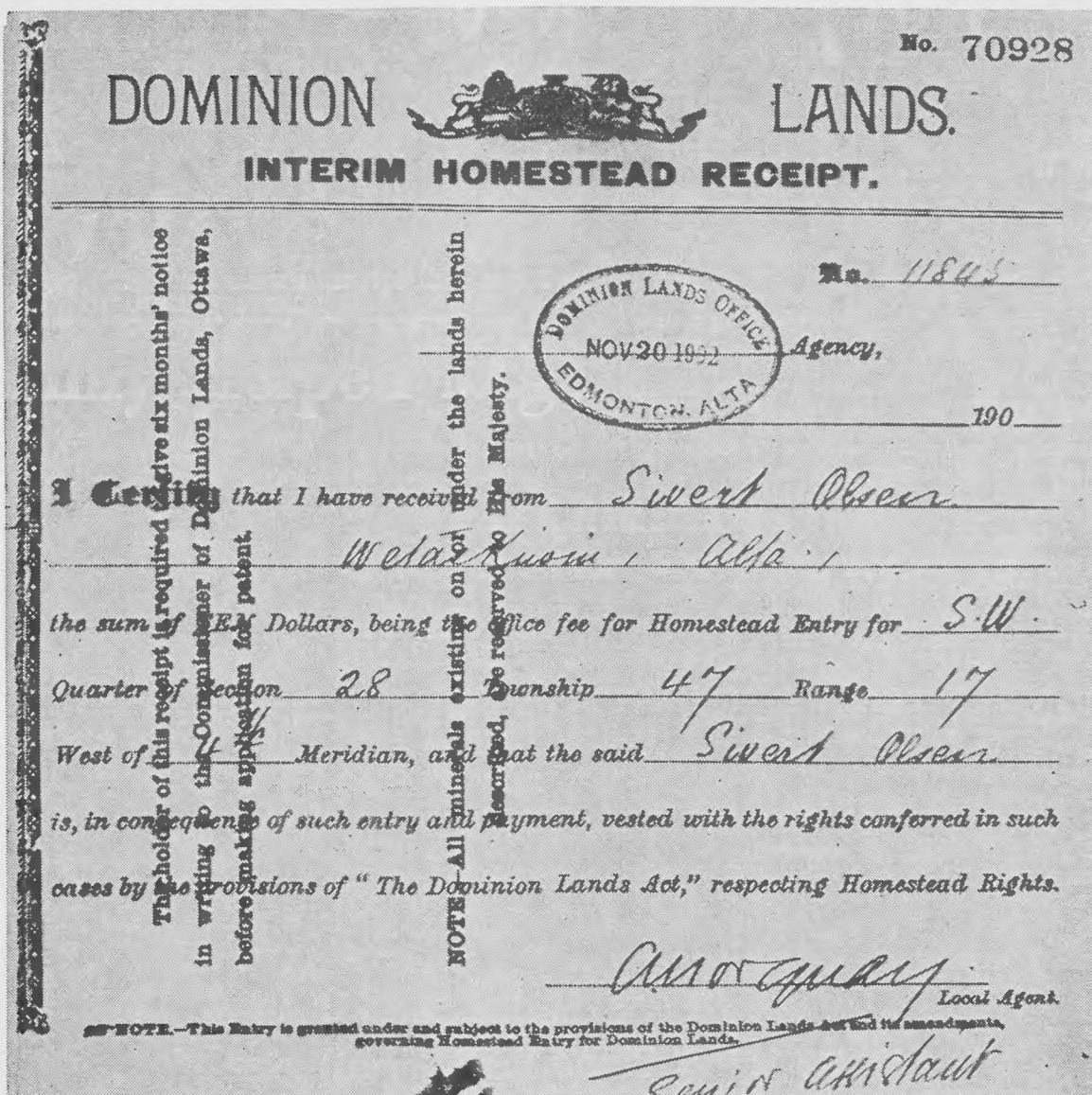
Depicting some of the old ox-cart trails across the prairies before the advent of the railways. Shown also is the water highway wherein goods were ferried from Wetaskiwin down the Pipestone Creek into the Battle River to Dried Meat Lake to points as far down as Ferry Point. In the early homesteading days when the land was too wet to traverse with horse and wagon this water highway did a booming business.

# The Land Boom on the Prairies

SURVEY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES — 1870

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT — 1875

DOMINION LANDS ACT — 1879



Although Canada was established as a Dominion in 1867, the prairies were still a vast wilderness in 1870, inhabited by half-breed fur traders and Indians. The settling of the United States area bordering this land made it imperative to open the prairies to settlement in order to keep it for Canada.

## SURVEY

A survey of the Northwest Territories was authorized in 1870, using the American system of 6 mile square townships. In 1873 a parlia-

mentary bill established the N. W. M. P., who set out the following year from Manitoba to keep law and order on the prairies.

## LAND ACTS

In 1875 the Northwest Territories Act provided for the survey and maintenance of Indian trails as recognized transportation routes, and four years later, in 1879, the Dominion Lands Act, and subsequent amendments in 1885, opened up the land for homesteads. Half-breeds who had resided in the Territories prior to 1870 were given

scrip land certificates for the purchase of land. The receipt pictured above was the homestead entry of the white settlers, which gave them rights to a quarter of land for the sum of ten dollars.

Thus it was that this document, whose date indicates that it was issued 52 years ago, became one of the most common of all legal papers. Business must have been booming for it was the 11,845th receipt issued from the Edmonton office of the Dominion Lands Department by November of 1902.

ORIGINAL.

No. 497

Form C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA.



NORTH WEST HALF-BREED COMMISSION.

(NOT TRANSFERABLE.)

VALID

188

I hereby Certify, under the powers vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st March, 1886, that ..... a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territories previous to the 15th day of July, 1870, now ceded by the Indians, and under Sub-clause (E) of Clause 81 of the Dominion Lands Act, 1883, and the Orders in Council of the 30th March, 1885, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1885, and the 1st March, 1886, is entitled at this date to Scrip to the amount of ..... acres.

The Scrip called for by this Certificate, amounting to ..... acres, will be redeemable in Dominion Lands open for ordinary Homestead and pre-emption entry, by the party in whose favour it is granted.

Commissioner.

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT BRANCH

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

B 6610

Received from Sivert Olsen of Earling D.L.D.  
the sum of \$81 ~~XX~~ DOLLARS,  
being amount due LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 681 for Taxes for the  
year 1903-04 on the following lands:  
S.W. 28 - 47-14-4

DATED at REGINA this 21 day of Sept. A.D. 1904  
Countersigned J. W. Sivertson  
CASHIER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Tax receipt for the years 1903 - 1904 show that the early tax burden was only two dollars per quarter. Sivert Olsen, of the Earling district, had to send his tax money to Regina, Northwest Territories, where the Local Improvement Branch was located.

# **IMPORTANT DATES**

## *Camrose and District*

1862 — Battle of Ketchamoot with great Cree Chief

1870 — Donald Whitford, buffalo hunter, roamed near Donalda.  
Survey made of Northwest Territories

1873 — Royal North West Mounted Police established

1874 — Police make first trek to prairies

1875 — Northwest Territories Act

1876 — Hay Lakes Telegraph Line built; continued on to Strathcona two years later

1878 — Dominion Lands Act

1880 — First issue of Edmonton Bulletin printed, with Hay Lakes Telegraph office relaying news to Strathcona  
Settlers begin flocking into Duhamel

1882 — Father Bellevaire comes to Duhamel

1885 — Last Riel Rebellion

1887 — First Duhamel school opened

1892 — Duhamel post office established

1895 — Bardo Church congregation organized

1896 — Heather Brae School built

1897 — Northern (Bardo) Post Office opened  
Thordenskjold School opened

1900 — Edstrom store, Haselwood grist mill, New Salem School,  
Lundemo Post Office

1901 — Valentine Store and Post Office, East Bittern Lake School

1902 — Ellefson Store, Heather Brae Store, Dr. Baldwin comes to  
Duhamel, Bosmans Store at Round Hill

1903 — Ferry Point Store and ferry, Wabel Hall opened, Brager  
Store opened

1904 — New Norway Store, Town of Bawlf, Earling Post Office,  
Railway starts to Stoney Creek

1905 — Ohaton, Daysland, Post Office of New Sarepta

# CHAPTER ONE

WHEREIN IS SHOWN the settlement of the country lying east of Wetaskiwin as far as the Battle River, including the coming of the two railway lines that helped to settle the district solidly by 1910. Historic points include the fort of Duhamel, site of Indian battles, and the G.T.P. trestle that was the seventh wonder of 1910.

## DUHAMEL . . . Old Trading Post

The glory of a historic past of Camrose and district is far outclassed by the Duhamel district which dates back to the beginning of things in Western Canada. Seventy-five or eighty years ago before the country knew anything of railways, before the agricultural possibilities of the "Great West" were dreamed of, and before there was any conception of the vast millions which someday the west would support, Duhamel was well known among the half-breed and fur trader population as is Edmonton today among the commercial cities of the west.

Duhamel was the fording place across the Battle River for the bull whackers who made the long journey from Winnipeg to Edmonton. Situated on what was then the commercial highway, it was for many years a popular fur trading post where the Indians came to barter the season's catch of furs for what the white men had to offer in the way of tobacco, blankets and ammunition. One fur trader after another took up his station at Duhamel and each made the nucleus of a fortune before he withdrew.

### FURS TREKKED TO WINNIPEG

The life of the fur trader was not without its hardships. The year's supply of furs had to be carted to Winnipeg or Edmonton, often among almost impassable roads and across swollen streams. In the early days any banking that the fur trader had to do required a trip overland to Calgary. Later after the construction of the C.P.R. line to Strathcona, a shorter trip to Wetaskiwin had to be made.

The fur trader who may be sitting today in his home in some rising metropolitan town will laugh at the suggestion that Alberta is a dry climate. He will tell you of wet seasons when Dried Meat Lake extended up to the Pipestone Creek almost to Wetaskiwin. He will recall the time when the trading post and the

hotel adjoining it were all that remained above water on the broad Battle River flats, and will relate how a flag lowered from a pole on either bank was a signal that a boat or canoe was wanted from the store to row a customer across.

### CRACKS IN EARTH

As a variation from the wet years would come the dry years, when everything would be dry as a bone over an area covering many townships. When the cattle had to be driven miles to get a drink, and when there would be great cracks in the earth large enough to swallow a dog, to the farmer of today such stories will seem incredible. They indicate that nature is becoming more moderate in her eccentricities, or as it is colloquially put, "things are changing."

In that period in the history of this country when the fur trader and the missionary went almost hand in hand, it was to be expected that a mission be established at Duhamel. Along the south shore of the Battle River one would have seen the little Roman Catholic mission and the bell close by which the adherents were called to worship. Adjoining the church were the farm buildings of Father Bellevaire, who came in 1881 and for 55 years lived among his flock and ministered to their spiritual needs. The Reverend Father was seen by many, riding on his favorite nag with a pair of gaithered shoes planted firmly in the stirrups above which could be seen the

flowing ends of his priest cassock. As he sat in his saddle, a picture of aged but sturdy manhood, he most surely forged a link between the present and the historic past. In early manhood he came out from France to devote his life to the work of the church in Western Canada. After a year spent at St. Albert, he was sent to the Battle River where the LaBoucan settlement was being established. Here in the midst of the little French colony he took charge of the mission, remaining there until the time of his death in 1937.

### PIONEER PRIEST

Every form of pioneer life was known to Father Bellevaire. He would ride in the buffalo hunt or paddle along the river swollen by the spring floods. After the season's catch of furs was gathered at the trading post, he would be on hand to say goodbye and give his blessing to the little party setting out with the Red River carts loaded with furs, on the long trek to Winnipeg. Six months later,

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leitch, for the ice was setting on the streams, he would be the first to welcome the party on their return and listen eagerly to the news of the great world which lay beyond his wilderness home. As the Holy Father of his flock, the little priest exerted a great influence over the Indian tribes.

On one occasion when the Indian rebellion of '85 was at its height, a company of the N.W.M.P. was camped along the Battle River, their presence became known to a large band of Indians near at hand and a surprise attack was planned. But Father Bellevaire stepped into the breach and pleaded earnestly with the Indians to desist from their bloody intentions and the attack was delayed until it was too late to meet with probable success. Had it not been for the father, the guardians of the law would never have awakened from their sleep.

### POST MOVED

The settler who came with the succeeding years scarcely knew what it was to be without the Duhamel trading post. Sixty-nine years ago when the population of

the district was gradually increasing and ranching was coming into vogue, the post was moved two miles down the river and established at a point where the river is crossed at the present day. A Mr. West ran the store for several years until he sold out to Mr. E. G. Rodell. During the next ten years the store passed through the hands of George P. Smith, Smith Bros., Thomas Shea, Even Olstad and Leon Pare.

Coming to the time when the Duhamel district became permeated with the commercial spirit, another great event took place. The

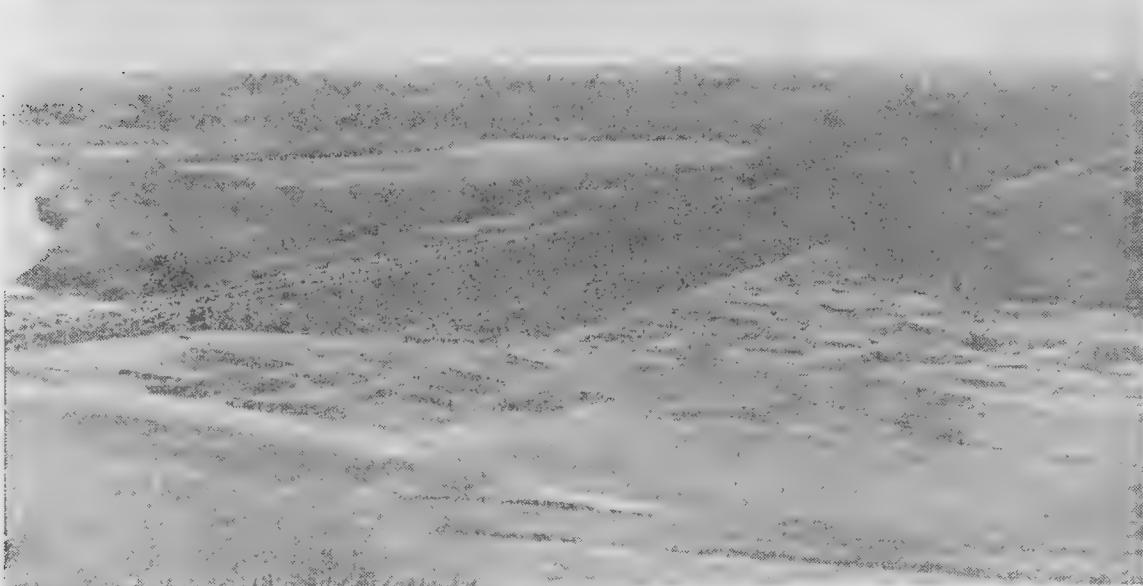
G.T.P. branch line from Tofield to Calgary had to cross the Battle River at some point and it was soon evident that the location chosen would mark the erection of a gigantic bridge across the gorge. The engineers added another chapter to Duhamel's history by deciding to place the bridge almost directly above the site of the old Duhamel store.

#### TRESTLE BRIDGE

Work on the bridge commenced in September 1909 of the following year. The laying of the rails across with the huge tracklaying machine

marked its completion. The bridge was 3992 feet in length, and 145 feet above the river flats. Nearly four million feet of timber and one hundred and sixty-two tons of bolts were used in its construction. For many months 150 men were steadily employed and the trail to Duhamel was kept smooth with the freighting of materials from Camrose. The building of the bridge made the Battle River the Mecca of hundreds of visitors. How many of them realized that the scene which was being enacted marked an epoch for the historic Duhamel?

### PART WAY THROUGH CONSTRUCTION



Picture shows the building of the four tiers of the Grand Trunk Pacific trestle across the Duhamel Valley. One of the world's largest, it was later torn down.

## Indian Traders Called Post 'Notikiwin Seppe'

### SETTLEMENT NAME CHANGED MANY TIMES (PREFACE)

The fortieth Anniversary Edition of The Canadian, published in 1947, carried the history of the Duhamel settlement and the story of the early days at Duhamel. These articles covered the Dumonts, and Sa-lois in the early '70's, Laboucan, Poitras, St. Germain, Brelands, Pauls Lavelles, Pare and Arsien Bourke in the late '70's and early '80's. From 1890 until the turn of the century were Francois Adam, Patterson, Skupniewicz, Walker, West Wiberg, Campbell Brothers, Olstads, Ramseys, Schwahns, Ditt-burners and John Knudson.

For the sake of adding to the history already compiled of this area, this Jubilee Book will endeavor to fill in gaps in the older history and set down what has hitherto been neglected.

#### FIVE BROTHERS

The old trading post, as it is referred to in this day and age, was first called "Notikiwin Seppe" the Indian word for Battle River.

Later with the first influx of white men the name became Battle River Crossing as it was built at the spot where the water could be forded. In 1880 when the five LaBoucan brothers gathered there it was known generally as the Laboucan Settlement. In 1892 the post office came in under Francois Adam and the settlement was given the name of Duhamel, in honor of the Archbishop Duhamel of Ottawa, who had presented a bell to the mission there.

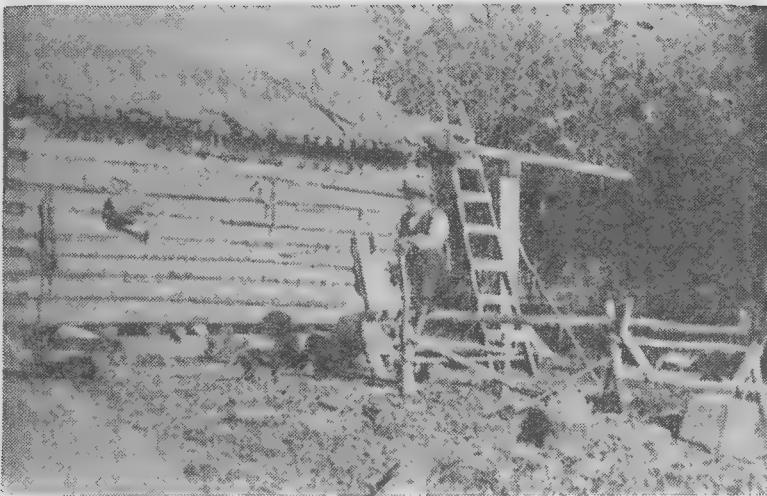
In addition to the post office, Thomas Shea and Miquelon built an 18-room hotel in 1901 known up and down the river as the "Shamrock Hotel", and the old store, (referred to previously) that passed through so many hands, creamery, blacksmith shop and livery. Dr. Baldwin was the first doctor in 1903, and Dr. Lamb came to the area.

#### BY-PASSED BY RAILROAD

As the railroad missed the trading post by two miles it was only natural that the businesses would lose out, either having to move

nearer to the rails or fold up. A bit of both took place. By the fall of 1909 Carl Scheie had erected a bright new store on the townsite which was run by his brother Louis Scheie and Jack Peterkin. The building had a large upstairs that was used for United Church services and as a community hall. He sold the business to Mr. Vannebo in 1913, R. E. Miller took it over in 1914. C. O. Quist built a lumber yard the same year. The one relic of Old Duhamel, the old store, was purchased by Leon Pare and moved to the new townsite. In 1911 William Yates took the store over, selling it later to Joe Martz who closed the store in 1914.

Although the railroad had given birth to a new town on one hand, it squeezed the life out of the old town on the other. Only Father Hippolyte Bellevaire remained unchanged, continuing to minister to his flock as the "Little Shepherd of the Duhamel Valley" for another twenty-seven years. With the passing of the Venerable Abbe in 1937, the last link with the fur trading days was broken. The mission bell he had cherished for 55 years was tolled for him by James Laboucan, who was his first altar boy, and he was buried in the church cemetery at the foot of a large weather-beaten wooden cross.



"MY LITTLE GREY HOME IN THE WEST"

—From the collection of Mrs. A. M. Hutchinson.

## Build Wooden Bridge

### RIVER FLAT SETTING

Many residents still reside in the Duhamel area who witnessed the building of the wooden trestle bridge over Battle River, about one quarter of a mile from the site of the old deserted village. Old Duhamel was then situated on the river flat where Highway 21 now crosses the river. The bridge which was started in 1909 was completed twelve months later in 1910.

The bridge was 3,972 feet long, 120 feet high at the highest point, 80 feet wide at the bottom, 10 feet wide at the top and was constructed entirely of wood except for the bolts which were used to hold the timbers together. The bridge was set on piles which were set in rows 14 feet apart and ten in each row. The timber which was all B.C. fir, was shipped over the

C.P.R. and was unloaded in Camrose and transported on horse and mule drawn wagons to the bridge site. Most of the timbers came in 32-foot lengths and were one foot square, except for the top of the bridge, and the brace planks. The planks were one foot wide and four inches thick.

### FOUR DECKS

Top timbers were six in number and were bolted together 3 under each track with eight inch ties between them and the track. There were four decks with about four million board feet above the piles. The pony deck which was the bottom one varied in height and took up the irregularity of the land.

The other three decks were thirty feet in height, which took the en-

tire 32 feet in length for the outside uprights. The piles, approximately 2 million board feet, were driven in by a 48 foot hammer head that weighed 1,200 pounds. Each pile head of malleable steel, weighing 500 pounds, was fitted on the pile and blocks of timber were put between the pile head and the driver. This was to save the pile from splitting. It took two crews of pile-drivers and engines almost eight months to put them all in. Some of them had to go down to a depth of sixty feet.

Timbers were cut on the ground, then hoisted by donkey engine to the deck, using long steel cables.

The number of men employed varied at times, at the peak of the construction there were 100 men in addition to the carpenters, cooks, etc.

### FEW ACCIDENTS

There were very few accidents of a serious nature, one of the worst happened to a visitor who said that he had been a bridge builder. He carried a little refreshment with him and sampled it frequently, then walked off a plank walk 20 feet up in the air. He was wearing a heavy fur coat which saved him.

Another time when the timbers were being pulled into place, two planks broke, letting about 50,000 board feet of timber topple in all directions. There were about 12 men working on the timbers but no one was seriously hurt.

Transportation of the timber was a big job, and anyone who wanted to hauled loads, paid by the board foot. The timber was all green, with five timbers making a good load. Quite a few homesteaders tried it, but unsuitable wagons and the heavy weight resulted in many a sad tale when the homesteaders tried lifting timbers without lifting equipment.

## Blackfeet and Crees Fought in Edberg Hills

**D**UHAMEL held a number of prominent places in Alberta's history, and many accounts have been written about these incidents.

Francois Adam tells of a battle between the Crees and the Blackfeet in the early days when the Crees were camped along Stony Creek on the north side of the river, and the Blackfeet were encamped on the south side of a hill that is known as the Edberg Hill. The Battle River formed the division between the two camps. The Crees decided to attack, and Father Lacombe, who was with the Blackfeet, tried to intervene at the height of the battle. He came between the two battling tribes and was shot at by the Crees, who took him for a woman. They shot at him several times without stopping him and the frightened Indians

imagined that they had hit him many times and the bullets had flattened on his body. There was also an idea that Peocus was with the Crees at the time.

### CREES RAID CAMP

The Crees had the Blackfeet entirely beaten and they raided the camp where they found the books of Father Lacombe and his things to celebrate Mass. These items they took with them, later dropping them off at Fort Pitt, southeast of St. Paul de Metis, where they traded at the post of Mountain House. The facts of the episode of the shooting was that the bullets had gone through Father Lacombe's cassock without harming him, and the same cassock is today kept at St. Albert.

Mr Adam goes on to say that when the halfbreeds of the White Horse prairie came to settle at Duhamel, this settlement became the fourth settlement of the west, oth-

ers being Big Lake, St. Albert and Fort Macleod. Each of these settlements numbered from 250 to 300 people, while Duhamel had some 63 families.

The ranch of Francois Adam was the site of the last Sun Dance in Canada where torture was used. In fact, this affair was broken up by a contingent of nine R.N.W.M.P. who had been sent out from Fort Saskatchewan for that purpose. The story of the fasters who took part in the Sun Dance explains the type of torture used, which the scarlet-coated custodians of the plains were ordered to stop.

## Lew Hutchinson

Lew Hutchinson who passed away this February, was one of the best known pioneers of the Duhamel area, coming to this country in 1900. He was a rancher at heart and ranched as well as farmed in the Duhamel area. At the time of his passing he ranked among the top three or four of Alberta's great farm leaders. His contribution to organized Agriculture, particularly through the

# Hold Last Savage Sun Dance

The Sun Dance, which was held on the top of a hill on the north side of the Adam river property, facing north on the old Tonanganis river lot, used a 30-foot corral made with upright posts and a mast was placed in the center. About 20 feet from the top hung three ropes coming down about two feet from the ground. At the end of each rope was attached a wooden pin ten inches long and very sharp. At the start the Indians picked three of their members for dancers, calling them the fasters. For three days and three nights they were forbidden to eat. So long as the dance was on the players of the "tom-tom" were often relayed, but the fasters had to keep dancing without interruption.

At the end of the three days the fasters laid down where they had taken their last dance steps and proceeded to have "visitations" from which they often made predictions. Their early predictions concerned

co-operatives, was overwhelming. His wife, the former Barbara Middleton, the first school teacher, writes from Calgary of some of her early recollections on the farm, located on 34-46-21. Heavy rains and sod roofs didn't go well hand in hand and Mrs. Hutchinson recalls pitching a tent in the kitchen to keep the sod roof from leaking on the head.

#### SQUATTER'S RIGHTS

Lew had originally obtained squatter's rights on a river lot in the old Duhamel community. The first squatter had asked for the price of a wagon in return for his interest in the land. Later he added more river lots to build up the home farm known as Spruce Coulee, a beautiful spruce wooded location on the banks of the Battle River.

## SHAMROCK HOTEL — 1904



The L. Peterson boat, which ferried passengers and groceries between Crooked Lake and Ferry Point. Also took passengers across Dried Meat Lake to picnics. Some fishing for 30-lb. jackfish was done. Boat often stopped at the Shamrock Hotel then at Duhamel by the shore of Battle River.

## Few Now on 1st 'Stead

where they should steal horses and girls, but in Adam's day they were concerned with where to hunt in the coming season.

After they had given their predictions the tom-toms started again, and each faster in a dancing way approached the foot of the mast. Each took a pin and pushed it in his chest starting first rib down between rib and skin. At the different roll of the drums they started to dance backward and when the ropes were nearly tight they gave a jerk so as to split the skin on the whole length of the pin. If the pin happened to come out by the same hole it went in, the faster was disqualified and in disgrace till the end of his days.

In those early fur-trading days the importance of a man consisted of the number of Red River carts he owned. Some of the half-breeds had as many as 150 carts, and an owner of less than 25 was of no consideration at all.

A scattering of some of the early settlers can still be found in the Duhamel area, among them are Mrs. Clara Scheie who has some interesting facts to relate on the growth of this area. She was the daughter of Wiberg, who had homesteaded west of Duhamel in the spring of '94. She married Carl Scheie in 1903, and she has resided for 52 years near the townsite of Duhamel.

#### BUILT DUHAMEL STORE

Her husband, Carl Scheie built the Duhamel store and then rented the building to a brother, Louis Scheie and Jack Peterkin, who were the first operators of the General Store.

Although Dave Widen retired from active farming in 1953 he still resides on his farm near Duhamel. He had come up from South Dakota in 1901 with his father who was a Baptist clergyman. Their homestead was west of Duhamel.

#### PRETTY POLLY

One of his early recollections is of a horse and rider entering the Shamrock Hotel. This event, recalled by many, took place on Sports Day in the Old Deserted Village. The hotel was built high up on a high bluff, and this horse and rider just walked up the steps and into the lobby of the hotel. He also tells of the "Pretty Polly" which was one of the finer boats used between Wetaskiwin and Dried Meat Lake, which was used for freighting down the river. The boat would tie up in front of the hotel. Mr. Widen was very active in his community, serving on the Wetaskiwin M.D., for 12 years as trustee, as councillor for 5 years, chairman of the Verdun School district, five years as secretary-treasurer of the same school district and three years on the Wetaskiwin Community Hospital Board.



SMITH & MILLER STORE AT DUHAMEL — 1901

## The Little Shepherd



FATHER BELLEVAIRE

## New School In 1887

The first school meeting held in Duhamel was on June 3, 1901. At this organizational meeting, trustees elected were John Martz, William Mulcahy, Lew Hutchinson, Carl Scheie and John Skupniewicz. A levy on real and personal property was authorized and the Board of Trustees was authorized to sell the present building being used for a school and let a contract for the erection of a new building on a suitable location.

Although this meeting was not a preliminary to the first school, it was the first effort at organizing the people to deal with the problem of the education of their children. Mrs. Jim LaBoucan wrote of the first school which was started in 1887 with Leon Pare teaching at his home. Much disagreement accompanied this early school, with quarrels over the distance the children had to travel to get to the teacher. Father Bellevaire was there to intervene and keep the hot-bed of indignant parents soothed down and finally it was settled that the school would be held in the mission near the church, until the new log building could be completed. Mr. Ambrose Grey of St. Albert, taught there for 3 years, and a Mr. Gerard, for 6 months. More settlers were moving into the western part of the district, so the school was moved to where a Mr. Ruttle lived. Shortly after, the log schoolhouse was sold and a frame building was erected near the site of the new schoolhouse (that was built in or after 1901).

### TEACHER PAID \$45.00

Returning to the formation of the School Board in 1901, the tax levy imposed on the farmers was 8 mills, with the value of the land figured at \$4.00 an acre. It was decided to start school on September 1, 1901, hiring the teacher at

a salary of \$45.00 per month until the Christmas holidays. With the tax levy set at that rate, the tax payable on a good quarter section amounted to \$5.12. The total receipts from taxes the first year amounted to \$325.19 for the Board, with about thirty-five farmers contributing all or part of their taxes.

Lew Hutchinson officiated as treasurer of the School District, with his wife (then Barbara Middleton) as the first teacher with a salary fixed at \$45.00 per month. Expenses for the Board came to \$302.29 that first half term and included teacher's salary, supplies for the school and equipment, and printing of assessment notices. Interesting items of expenditure in-

clude two panes of glass at 50 cents, stove pipe 25 cents, 1 box of chalk at 25 cents, 1 stove damper for the same amount, 8 school desks and seats \$12.00, school bell for 30 cents, 4 window blinds for \$2.00. Biggest item of expenditure was the teacher's salary. Lowest tender for the schoolhouse was from George Tauton, who built the edifice and received \$558 for his work. Francois Adam's name appears as auditor throughout the early records, with Lew Hutchinson's writing in the ledger. The first five years were nip and tuck for the Board, but with a \$500 loan from the bank to build the school, they managed to come out in the blue, although the surplus was very slim.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



## First Church Hewn Logs

 THE BUILDING of the churches as well as the schools had its beginnings around seventy years ago in the Duhamel area. As mentioned previously, the Roman Catholic Church was opened up by Rev. Father Bellevaire and the year was 1883. It was built of hewn logs which were supplied by the half-breed parishioners. After the erection of the walls, the women of the parish met at the new building and plastered the chinks between the logs with a mixture of hay and mud. They also whitewashed the church within, and on the exterior with pitch, which in this case was composed of white mud from the homestead of F. Dumont. This same white mud was later employed by many of the settlers to whitewash the interiors and exteriors of their own homes. The resulting color and preservation was quite similar to that obtained from today's white lead paints.

Mrs. Jim LaBoucan mentions in her writings of the visit of Bishop Grandin in 1884 to the parish. He was very pleased with the success of the work, especially when he found a class of 28 children ready to receive the communion. The Bishop praised the mission to the Archbishop Duhamel of Ottawa

who later presented the parish with a bell, which still exists.

The first Protestant services in Duhamel were held in 1901 when the Rev. James Smith of Newfoundland was placed in charge by the Methodist Board; Mr. Smith served several points, going from one to the other on horseback. Church services were held in the old log school house (west of the Clarence Scheie buildings now), until the new church was built. The congregations were very small, often with only 4 or 5 present.

Mr. Smith moved to Wetaskiwin and until 1904 the area was served by students very irregularly. In 1904, Rev. Collins took charge of the United Congregations of Duhamel and Camrose and this arrangement held for several years. Then Camrose considered that they needed the full time of their minister and Duhamel was annexed to Battle River and various students occupied the pulpit.

In 1914 the Rev. D. C. Ramsey, then minister in Camrose, undertook the services, followed by Rev. Pocock, who had taken up residence near Duhamel and who served the church faithfully. The Rev. Ramsey resided where the Jim Trautman family now live, and Rev. Pocock on the present Alvin Nygaard farm.

# NEW NORWAY...

## Named by Norske's

The popularity of the New Norway district, named for the Scandinavian settlers, commenced early in the history of the northern portion of the province. Soon after the C. & E. Railroad was built, a few hardy pioneers ventured eastward from Wetaskiwin and settled here. The fertile soil produced almost unbelievable crops, and sounded especially attractive to friends and neighbors in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, and Ontario, who had heard about the area.

These settlers who had come from the States were used to a life where the profits of farming came at the expense of hard labor and careful tillage so this fertile land was much to their liking.

### JOSEPH NEVEU STORE

Early in the history of the district it became apparent that a post office and general store were needed and Joseph Neveu who had homesteaded just south of the river in 1892 seized on the opportunity and in 1904 opened a general store at the old New Norway townsite which was one mile directly east of the present town. He was also appointed postmaster and did a prosperous business at this stand for six years.

### HOUR OF BIRTH

With the arrival of the G.T.P. railroad in 1910 the townsite was born and the area entered into a new phase of development. It is interesting to note that the exact time of the birth of New Norway can be calculated, for from the files of The Canadian for October 14, 1909 appears an advertisement by Francois Adam's real estate office, saying that the Townsite lots of New Norway, the first one to be surveyed on the Calgary-Tofield branch of the G.T.P. line would be put on sale at his office on Thursday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m. This was the hour of the birth, and one week later there were lots purchased and buildings starting for the Merchant's Bank, a hotel, 2 livery barns, a general store, hardware, drug store, butcher shop, livery and feed barn, and 2 real estate offices. At the end of the first month there were fourteen established businesses, with only 5 lots left on main street. Business lots sold for \$100 to \$250 while the residential lots went for from \$50 to \$150.

With the improved shipping facilities now available the farmers extended their operations on all lines, and with the rapid building on the townsite, Joseph Neveu moved his large hardware and general merchandise stock to commodious quarters on a prominent corner in the townsite. The town incidentally stood on the land of homesteader Olstad, and soon became a busy center.

incorporated as a joint stock company and the name changed to Farmer's Store. They occupied a double building, carrying a large stock of general merchandise.

E. E. Ramsey conducted a real estate, loan and insurance office and sold Cockshutt and Fairbanks-Morse Machinery, Brantford carriages. He was also the postmaster of the town, coming to New Norway when the townsite was laid out to engage in business.

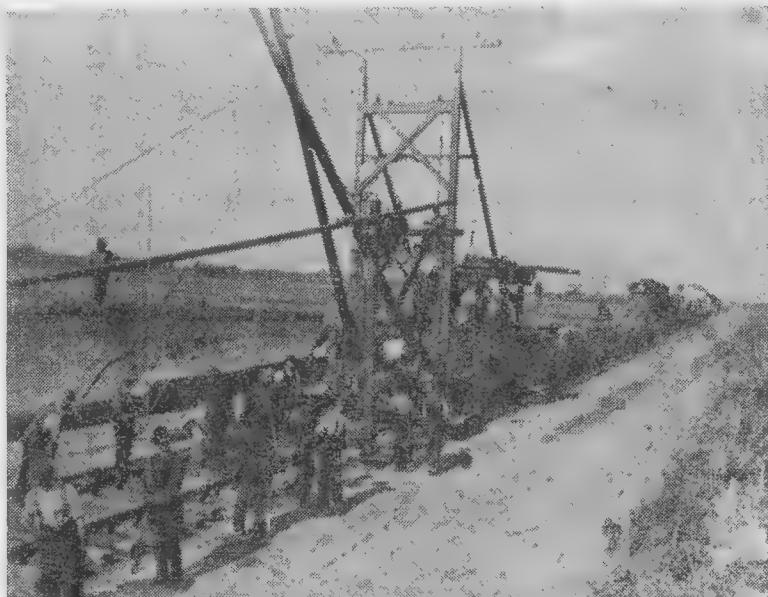
The King George Hotel, which occupied a prominent corner opposite the depot, was built the first year of the town's existence by S. E. Denny who managed the business for three years. He sold in 1913 to Mr. Nozick who placed Foster Jones in charge as manager. Ownership changed again that same year with S. Gilleland of Edmonton coming into possession. He was a hotel man of many years experience, having conducted hotels at Scott and Macklin, Sask.

### TONSORIAL ARTIST

C. I. Cooper was the town's tonsorial artist, and he also ran a three-table pool room in connection with his business. The business had originally been established by Cole Stewart, who sold in the spring of 1913 to Cooper. Cooper hailed from Woodstock, Ontario and had located at Sedgewick prior to coming to the new village.

Even Olstad started a lumber business and real estate office which was sold in October of 1910 to the Globe Lumber Company who took immediate possession. N. M. Smith was the first manager for Globe, followed the next year by Andy Rockstad who came from Wisconsin.

When Jas. Richardson built his grain elevator, completing it in October of 1910, sixteen men worked on the job of erecting the 85-foot building. It was built in about two weeks with construction supervised by the Edmonton Elevator and Construction Company managed by William Woodward. Loading platforms and stockyards for the G.T.P. were under construction at the same time.



AUGUST, 1910, ON THE G.T.P. LINE

# Settle Before Century

**E**VEN and Ludvik Olstad came to the Duhamel district in 1892 and filed on homesteads for themselves and a number of other men in the States, including their father, Ole Olstad, and their brothers Lars and Ole Jr. In the Minnesotas and Dakotas were Gullik Iverson, Gudmund Welland, Ole Johnson, Hagen Bros. and Mathias Lund, who had homesteads awaiting them, filed on by the first comers. The two boys returned to the Minnesotas in the fall of '92 to gather up their families and friends to return to the great northwest of Canada.

Even returned on a cent-a-mile excursion in June of 1893, bringing his family and the Gullik Iverson family with him. They came to Wetaskiwin where they rested for a few days, living in tents that the government had provided for the homesteaders' use. These tents contained long tables and benches, stoves, and bunks, filled with hay. Even walked 25 miles from Wetaskiwin to Duhamel to get a team and wagon to bring his family out.

They lived in tents on the homestead until the cabins were built, and the tents were pitched on the old Winnipeg Trail, with Indians travelling close by. Even worked in 1895 in Francois Adam's store. He then started a store business and ran the first post office, bringing the mail from Wetaskiwin. New Norway was named by the Olstads. Even then went to Bittern Lake from where he moved to the Peace River Country and homesteaded at Hines Creek.

In 1895 Ole Olstad, Lars Olstad, Ludvig Olstad and Peter Haukendahl and their families arrived in the country.

Ole Olstad broke the first land for Ole Bakken where Camrose is now situated. He also wintered cattle for Francois Adam, and raised over a hundred head of horses. Some of this land, situated on the northeast quarter of 11-45-21 is part of the present townsite of New Norway, which he purchased before the town was started. The northeast of 10-45-21 was the homestead, and he built his new house on the townsite in 1909.

He had an interest in a store in New Norway and also in Bawlf where the Olstad and Hardy General Store was built in 1909. He was also rural mail carrier until 1936 or '37. Surrounding farmers had their cream picked up for years by Ole, who hauled the load to Wetaskiwin when he went for the mail. His son, Ole, Jr., hauled the weather vane for the Lutheran Church from Wetaskiwin in 1910. Ole Sr., served on the village council and was mayor of New Norway for many years, as well as being a member of the School Board. Mr. and Mrs. Olstad celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in November of 1950 when they received messages of congratulations from the King.

Gullik Iverson came out at this same time and settled on the land on the southeast of 22-45-21, secured for him by Even Olstad. He then helped Even break land, and the first year the crop was cut with a krill. His children remember when their father purchased two white and yellow kittens for them from Jerome Labousan for a dollar each. Their dog had got off the train en route to Wetaskiwin and the children thought he was lost forever. When the train arrived at the next station the dog was there waiting for them.

August H. Dittburner came with his parents to Wetaskiwin in 1895 and on October 8th of that year set out for the homestead that was 7 miles south of Duhamel. He was only sixteen years old, too young to file, so he helped his father prove up on his homestead. He then trained with his older brother as an apprentice blacksmith, at his shop in Old Duhamel. Francois Adam's store and post office at that point was the only place to trade on this side of the Battle River, and the bridge there was the only place to cross the river. The olstads got together with a few other settlers and hauled logs from Duhamel to build a log school house which was later the school district of New Norway. About the time that Old New Norway was moved to the new townsite, Dittburner worked as a carpenter helping to build the Lutheran Church in 1910, and the Merchants' Bank, which is now owned by Wel's. After that, he took up blacksmithing and worked on the railroad construction in Biggar, Saskatchewan. It was in 1914 that he opened a blacksmith shop of his own in New Norway, and is still in business.

More friends of the Olstads in the persons of Gudmund Kvlland and his son George, Carl Hagness and Knute Kvlland came up to claim their homesteads in 1896, with Gudmund Kvlland taking up the southeast quarter of 14-45-21. He managed to get five acres broken on this homestead and build a sod shack, when a two-day rain came along and washed all the sod off the roof. During the remaining interval of the rain the family was obliged to stay under the table to keep dry.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Backstrom were among the settlers coming into the area in 1898 accompanied by the other Backstrom brothers and their families. Early rains played their tricks on these settlers, for Mrs. Gus Backstrom remembers spending considerable time moving the bed to the centre of the room during the rains, and covering the baby with an umbrella for protection. The three brothers lived a half mile apart with their nearest neighbor six miles away. In two years all this land around them was taken up.

These families resided in what is known as the Highland Park district which was 18 miles southeast of Wetaskiwin. The Highland Park Mission Church was organized by these families under extreme hardships in 1902, with 10 members to start it off. They built a church, which still stands in 1905, and Gus Backstrom took on the post office known as Highland Park, and as a deputy registrar he was able to record the vital statistics of the area he served. His wife had been educated as a seamstress in Sweden, and she was most generous with her talents in assisting her neighbors with their sewing.

John Shaw of Nebraska was homesteading in '98 and Ole Ramstad preceded him from Minnesota in 1893.



New Norway ball team of 1905, with (back row): Harry Tull, Olie Ramsey, Emil Dittburner, August Dittburner, Carl Ramsey; (front row): Arthur Ellingson, Joe Neveu, Carl Tronnes and Ainer Tronnes.

# Lured from Kentucky



MINNESOTA, South Dakota and even Kentucky born men arrived in the New Norway district at the turn of the century, a part of the first huge immigration of settlers into Alberta, sponsored by the colonization department of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Levang's had immigrated from Minnesota where homestead conditions were becoming crowded and the northwest territories of Canada looked most inviting. Thomas Levang and his brother, Carl, headed straight for the New Norway district, with Thomas homesteading on the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 18-45-20. Here he farmed and raised purebred Belgian horses, was in the machinery and fuel business for 13 years, and finally went back to the farm.

## FERRY CABLE BREAKS

His brother Carl, kept on going and ended up in Camrose, then on to Daysland where he homesteaded about 14 miles south, in 1902. He had to cross the Ferry Point ferry which broke a cable when he was amidsteam carrying him about a mile down the river. The ferry caught on a broken tree trunk and finally stopped. In 1907 he went into the livery business in Camrose. He started with horses and finally worked up to his first car—a chain drive air-cooled International auto buggy, with high wheels and a handle to steer with. He took off for the United States in 1915 and

travelled through the Western States, but found that the Camrose district suited him best, so he returned in 1921.

Jonas Albert Hanson settled in the Backstrom district in 1900, coming up from South Dakota with his parents. They settled on the Northwest quarter of 21-44-21. Young Jonas got lost in the brush one time when he was on horseback. Someone had told him that a person could turn three somersaults in rapid succession and get his bearings. He tried it, and was heading the right direction when

he stood up! He later married Julia Ringwall, whose family had immigrated from the Dakotas in 1900 and settled in the Lewisville district. Jonas went into the carpenter business after he had proved up on his homestead in 1904 and then into the lumberyard business when Ferintosh started up in 1910.

Taylor Franklin Van Hook was Kentucky-born, and with his family arrived in this area in 1904, settling about three and a half miles east of the townsite. Besides farming he acted as postal clerk in Old New Norway for Joe Neveu, and in later years worked on the G.T.P., and as a carpenter in Camrose. He worked with the late Frank L. Farley, concentrating on purple martins.

## 2,000 Celebrate Progress

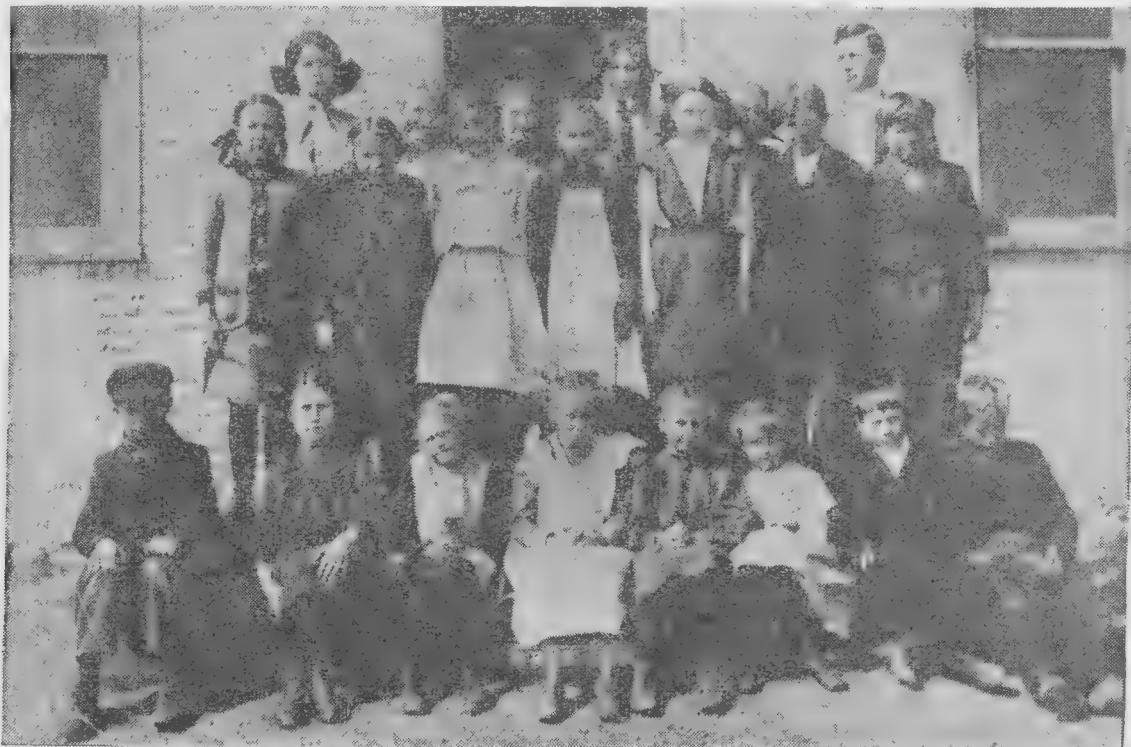
In July of 1910 the people of the village staged a huge celebration on the 4th when 2,000 people attended. The celebration lasted all day with the Wefaskiwin Band in attendance, a public picnic, and the Bawlf Orchestra supplying dance music. The day was a tribute to the harmonious manner in which the citizens had worked since the first stake of the town was laid down. People came from all over, including Camrose, and the citizens went all out to make the visitors welcome. Main Street took on a surprising change with trees planted temporarily along both sides, and flags and bunting were lavishly hung everywhere. Refreshment booths, ball games and dancing were put on with special guests entertained at a sumptuous banquet at noon in a hall that had

been especially prepared for the occasion. George Peter Smith of Camrose was one of the main speakers.

The next month, in August, word was received from the railway that the officials had promised a station to the village, and jubilation ran high.

## TWO STORES BURN

One tragedy marred the early years for in December of 1910 a large fire broke out in the townsite, wiping out two large business places. The fire originated in the rear of Sanders' Drug Store and spread to the large general store of W. B. Morrison. This last building had just been completed by the New Norway Townsite Company and was one of the largest



New Norway's old school, which was later used for a U.F.A. Hall, and is now being utilized for a garage (Bob's Service). This picture was taken over 45 years ago, with Mr. E. E. (Gibby) Oliver as teacher.

in town. The Ramsey Bros. owned the building occupied by Sanders, but both buildings were fairly well covered by insurance.

#### SMALL POX SCARE

In 1911 the town secured a doctor in the person of Dr. George A. Massinotte, a McGill University graduate and physician of 10 year's experience. He purchased the drug store and a home, and made preparations to rebuild an up-to-date block that had been burned in the fire of the previous year. Two years after he came to minister to the town, at the time of the 4th of July sports, a small pox scare hit the town. One of the members of the Wetaskiwin Band took ill after he returned home at the close of the celebration and his ailment turned into small-pox. The government health officer helped the doctor vaccinate the town, and with a crowd of 2,000 people who had attended the sports a number of rural and district folk had to be rounded up for the vaccination. It appears that the unfortunate lad had himself a good time at the celebration, being present at the dance and dancing with a score or so of the young ladies. Fortunately for the doctor the persons who had come in contact with the young man did not have to be persuaded to pass under the needle.

# Settle West of N. Norway

The area west of the present townsite of New Norway received the first settlers before the turn of the century, and many incidents of that area have been faithfully recorded in the diaries of A. E. Trussler. Now in the hands of his daughters, these carefully recorded books take in around 12 years of settlement, including preparations for the trip out from Ontario.

On April 3, 1899, he helped load a car of settlers' effects bound for Wetaskiwin, containing some of his own supplies. Travelling with this car were the Stauffer and Butler families. Mr. Trussler left on June 30th, and arrived in Wetaskiwin on July 7th, with his wife, Alice. By the 17th of July he was settled on the southeast quarter of 12-45-22 and had a sod house ready for occupancy by early November. The summer was cold wet, with the sod roof leaking most of the time.

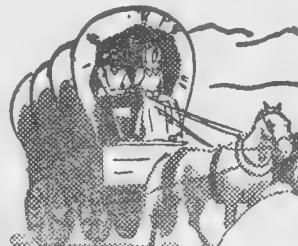
In March of 1900, the Hover school was organized and he was elected secretary-treasurer of the school district. That same year he set up a sawmill. C. H. Butler arrived in April of that year and filed on land for himself and J. V. Butler. Jim Butler's home-

stead was on the northeast of 7-45-21, and Harry Butler took the southeast quarter of 32-45-21.

A creamery was started in the summer of 1900 on the A. E. Trussler farm.

Robert Dore, who settled near Dorenlee, stayed with the Trussler's when he first came out, and A. E. Trussler accompanied him in search of land. Mrs. Dore took ill and died soon after Mr. Dore came out, as recorded in the diaries.

Mr. Trussler had his steam papers and also had a blacksmith shop. During the early years he operated a steam boiler on a threshing rig. His diary tells of much early activity in Ontario, scaling logs and working in sawmills.



## FERINTOSH . . . On Little Beaver Lake

In the olden days when the Blackfoot tribe held the country south of the North Saskatchewan River, an Indian trail skirted the shores of a pretty little lake known as "Amiskoosis Saskihigan", which meant Little Beaver Lake. With the advent of the Hudson's Bay Company the narrow Indian trail broadened into a rutted road, cut deep by the wheels of the Red River Carts while en route to the Missouri Coteau. The Little Beaver district was frequently a rendezvous of the voyagers, and with the coming years that followed the fur trading days, came the first white settlers. These people sought to profit from the soil instead of furs and thus became a more permanent type of settler. They were for the most part hardy Norwegians, Swedes, German and American farmers from the Western States.

They followed the old trail and settled down to farm when they reached the deep black rich soil. Owing to the distance from railroads they turned their attention to raising cattle and horses.

A new and more permanent trail came to the Little Beaver area in 1909 when a trail of steel was laid by the G.T.P. The impact on the district was quite noticeable, for the ranchers turned to farming and began breaking land.

#### FIRST PIONEER

On the east side of the Little Beaver stood the homestead of J.

The townsite was surveyed in 1909 on part of the Lassen homestead and was officially incorporated in 1910. Building sites were quickly secured and the first building was the real estate office of William Wilson, which was erected on Main Street.

#### RESORT SYNDICATE

Three men formed a syndicate known as the Little Beaver Lake Hotel Company, with the intentions of making the town a summer resort. Capitalized at \$25,000 by William Wilson, J. H. Lassen and James Townsend. The planning of the hotel was done by Wilson who put up the foundation and then Lassen took over and completed the structure. He sold to Livingstone who tore down the hotel to the foundation, to again rebuild.



Showing the resplendent hotel bar in the old Little Beaver Resort Hotel. Left to right: W. Brady, Jack Hunter, Herb Miller, Jack MacDonald, Dad Marshall and Henry Nelson.



Second log house built by W. Bredesen in '98 after the first one was destroyed in a prairie fire. Taken in 1905, and showing W. and Marcus Bredesen, Dr. McLeod's children, Mrs. McLeod, McLary, DeFrain, Ina DeFrain, Sadie Smithers, Mr. DeFrain, etc.

Calgary Brewery purchased the hotel and hired Brady and MacDonald to run it. The original hotel had a bar and room service. The population of the village had to be 200 in order for the hotel to secure a license. When the country went dry the business was sold for taxes and dismantled permanently.

The first store in the village was the Johnstone and Hanson General Store, established in 1910 and they sold practically everything. Dan and Dick's General Store today stands on the site. Other successive owners were Steinbaugh, Hardy and Peterson, L. H. Ogilvie, Calder, with Dan and Dick, moving into the building in 1937. They were operating a grocery store next door, which has since been torn down. This building was the first Post Office with the Poon Restaurant in part of the building. The post office did not move to its present location until 1922.

#### DOCTOR—MLA

Dr. McLean built a Drug Store and with this business carried on as district doctor, covering Edberg, Meeting Creek and Bashaw as well. His first building, a two storey pharmacy, burned down, and he rebuilt. He had been one of the first Alberta MLA's before he came to the district. After his death Drs. Weisgerber and Drinnan took over for short intervals each. With Dr. Drinnan came Miss Bessie MacDonald, who stayed many years after the doctor left. When she sold the drug business, the stock was moved to Dan and Dick's store and later to Ed's Cafe. The building, which was owned privately, was sold and for a short time a general store was operated there. This burned down and today the modern Ferintosh Hotel stands on the site.

The Ferintosh creamery was located on the north edge of the townsite. It was established in 1910 and nature of the business was buttermaking, with Tommy Carr

as buttermaker. Original owners were Eric Hanson and J.D. Johnstone. In about 1920 the business was bought out by Edmonton City Dairy, who dismantled the building. The business at one time was a large concern and serviced a wide area.

Fred Kuhnke, in partnership with Burch, established a Real Estate Office and Insurance Co., located where Campbell and McIntyre now operate a Garage. When the partnership dissolved, Kuhnke became the Livestock Dealer and Machinery Agent and was later joined in business by his brother, William.

#### PACKING PLANT

Flohr Butcher Shop was opened in 1910 on the site where the Imperial Bank is located, and was sold to the Lassen Bros., who operated a small packing plant.

Nesse's Pool Hall was located on the north side of Main Street, west of Johnstone and Hanson's General Store. Carl Nesse, the manager, was also a barber. This building was used as a restaurant after Nesse closed out, then the building was torn down after standing vacant for several years.

McKee's Jewellery Store was located a short distance west of the Resort Hotel and faced the railway and lake. After a few years the building was moved to the site of the present old hotel. With a few alterations and additions the building served as a restaurant and rooming house before becoming a hotel.

West and Creighton's hardware store was also opened in 1910 and was located on the south side of Main Street, across from the butcher shop. Kuhnke's Hardware is now located in the same building. At one time William Gould operated a General Store in the building.

#### SENATOR'S SON

In 1911 another general store was in business known as Voss General Store. W. E. Voss came

from Eastern Canada. He sold out to Wilf Legree, son of J. H. Legree, senator in Quebec, under whose name the store was operated. Legree sold to Dickson and later Tanner became owner, adding hardware and lumber. The building still stands on the location which was across the avenue from West and Creighton's Hardware. Today the building houses the Billiard Hall, Dick's Barber Shop and residence of the A. R. Kuffers. At one time after the store ceased operating in the building, a butcher shop and a restaurant business was carried on there.

The first lumber yard was known as Townsend's Lumber and was later operated by Jacobson. Then the Alberta Lumber Co. bought it, and later sold to the Crown Lumber. This yard was located at the east end of Main Street, just west of the Post Office and east of the Ferintosh Hotel, which then was the site of the drug store.

The Imperial Bank opened in the old Lassen building which had been a butcher shop. This was later dismantled and rebuilt in the same location, where it still stands. This was in 1918 and the first bank manager was A. S. Rosenroll and Harold Smith, the present Village postmaster, as clerk.

#### STILL RESIDENT

The Star Livery which was operated by Frederick Graff, still resident in the village, was established in 1910. It was located a block north of main street. Mr. Graff sold horses with this business as well as having a driving team for taxi purposes. When he discontinued, cars were coming into use so he began operating the Pioneer Garage. This was located on the south side of main street where today it still stands. It is now greatly altered and is known as the Campbell & McIntyre Garage. Mr. Graff operated his garage until about 1945.

Next to Star Livery, was Pete Hudson's Blacksmith Shop. Today on the site of these two businesses sits the duplex house of A. F. Norman. At the time of building, Mr. Norman also dismantled an old garage that at one time was operated by the late Johnny Saffran.

Another blacksmith, in later years was William Norrish. He also had the Massey-Harris agency in connection. This building, which was located in the southwestern part of the village, burned down in 1939. He discontinued his business and returned to England from whence he came.

There was also another livery in the village which was operated by Trossil, located on the south side on the same street where Mr. Norrish located in later years. A man by the name of Higgins once was a livery man as well. On this particular street mentioned, Saffran's Garage is located, managed today by George Saffran.

Imperial Elevator Company operated the first elevator with Mr. Yoe as agent. Superintendent was Mr. Woodward, the company later selling out to the N. Bawlf Grain Co., who later sold out to the United Grain Growers.

# Blue Smith First Clerk

## TWO SETTLERS STILL RESIDE IN VILLAGE

The first council, who met in February of 1911, consisted of A. West, J. D. Johnstone and Dr. McLeod. Applications for secretary-treasurer were called for and W. W. A. "Blue" Smith was appointed. The meeting was held in McKee's Jewellery Store, convening four days later to appoint Smith at a yearly salary of \$60.00. Arrangements were made to pay temporary rent to McKee for the use of his store and he was allotted 75¢ per meeting with a fire, and 50¢ without the fire. The first by-law passed occurred on February 23rd, of the same year when the Village was authorized to borrow the sum of \$613 for the purpose of repaying the note due to the Trader's Bank for street improvement.

Fred Graff and J. V. (Harold) Assheton-Smith are the only remaining residents of the village today, who were among the early citizens or settlers.

The first church was the Zion Lutheran Church which was organized in 1914. The Pastor was Rev. Betermann, who came from Camrose to hold the services. School was held for the first while in a hall above a machine shop in connection with the first general store. Miss Bessie Spurrel, who is now Mrs. George Sinke, was the first teacher. Mrs. Sinke is now operating a small grocery store in Calgary.

Early sports in the village included baseball, basketball and hockey, which were played by both

men and women. The village held a fair regularly in those days with as many as 50 entries in the parade. The lake nearby was a sight to behold with many sailboats during the summer days.

Several early cars remembered

in the district were the "Everitt" owned by John Lassen and the "Emf" which was nicknamed the "every morning fix it", owned by Saffrans.

The progress of this district was rapid with oxen going out in 1911 and horses taking over completely. There were a good breed of horses around Ferintosh.

# Century Saw New Surge Of Immigrants Arrive

## FAMILY FILE ON SECTION



FTER THE TURN of the century the settlers came thick and fast into this great area, with the Ferintosh district getting a goodly share of the pioneers. Dakota-raised Victor Graff headed north at the turn of the century, homesteading about three miles west of the village of Ferintosh. His four children attended the first school in the district which was then located on the present Central Valley cemetery site. It was later moved to Ferintosh and used for a church.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Richmond, present residents of Ferintosh, both entered this country with their parents in 1900. Her father homesteaded north of Wetaskiwin while the Richmonds Sr., filed on land northwest of Millet.

Another Ontario land seeker was William August Kuhnke who accompanied his parents and three

uncles in 1900. The four senior men filed on a complete section of land on the southwest of 14-43-28, west of Ponoka and spent a lot of time the first few years fencing and cross-fencing the quarters. He homesteaded two miles south of the parents and then left the homestead to go into business in the rising town of Ferintosh.

Coming in the same year, Herman Rutz left his family in Wetaskiwin while he built his house on the northeast quarter of 23-43-21. Travelling was difficult for Herman for he arrived in October when the snow was knee-deep.

Fred Graff, born in Rostov, Russia, had emigrated in 1881 to Kansas and Missouri before coming to the Ferintosh area in 1900. His land, situated a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile south of the village of Ferintosh, was mostly gravel, and today is used as a gravel pit, owned by the C.N.R. He worked on the railroad construction in the early days and finally went into the livery barn and garage business in the village.



Interior of Harvey Kibbe's blacksmith shop, showing Kibbe and C. L. Johnson on the left. Shoes instead of tires were changed in the early days.



The Star Livery and Feed Stable, owned by Fred Graff. Driving the buggy is Bert Smathers. In the doorway is Pete Hanson. Holding the first team is owner Graff, next team is Bill Bouquist and young Irvin Graff.

## New Settlers Came In 15 Years Ahead of Steel



WILLIAM C. Schwahn came to Alberta from South Dakota with his parents in 1895. The Schwahn's took up homestead on the northwest ¼ of 24-44-21 in Little Beaver district. The parent homestead is now owned by George Reister but "Bill" still retains his Little Beaver quarter. He gave up farming shortly after 1928 and retired to Ferintosh.

Mr. Schwahn recalls that when he and his brother, the late Otto Schwahn, started out on their own, they bought a few groceries and kitchen utensils from the late Joe Neveu on time, as they did not have the \$20 cost. Their first acreage was broken with oxen and grain hauled to Wetaskiwin. Their mail was picked up in Duhamel from postmaster Francois Adam. Among his recollections is the erection of the Arlington Hotel in Camrose by the late Mr. Matejka, for he once pulled his car out of a mud hole. (It was about one of the first cars in the district). Mr. Schwahn helped to organize the Little Beaver School District and remained interested in young folk. One of his daughters, Mrs. A. R. Kuffler, resides in Ferintosh.

### FIRST POSTMASTER

The widely known "Blue" Smith who bore, but never used the lengthy, Walter William Assheton first names, came from England to

Wetaskiwin in 1896 with the police force. He was sent to Duhamel and later to Camrose when the detachment was transferred there. He took his discharge in 1910 and went to Edberg to homestead, starting a post office in Ferintosh. The first summer he drove back and forth to operate the post office and moved in the latter part of the summer. He was the first J.P. and heard preliminary court cases which were held in Ferintosh with the assistance of former police officer W. J. McIntyre. He remained as postmaster until his death in 1944. His adventures and work with the N.W.M.P., were widespread and many. He travelled from England to Australia and then to Winnipeg in 1882. Here he tutored in French, bought a horse which he rode to Regina, and joined the police force.

He was stationed with Capt. Charles Dickens, son of the novelist, took part in the Riel Rebellion and then went on to Battleford. In 1887 he took discharge and went back to England where he stayed 5 months. Returning to Canada he rejoined the forces and was stationed at Fort Macleod, Calgary and Edmonton and in the Peace River country, ending up eventually in Camrose where he took his retirement. Almost every township inside and bordering the present municipal distict knew him for he was a familiar figure to all. From each district comes another tale of his travels.

### SPECULATOR STAYS

Although Thomas Christian Olson came originally to this district in 1898 on a speculating trip, he succumbed to the lure of the land and homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 12-44-22. His parents, a Danish carriage maker, and a Swedish woman, had settled in Nebraska in 1886, but he came alone to the new north. Still living in Ferintosh, he recalls well clearing his land with horses and breaking up the fields. Clear also are the memories of travelling the horse trails over the wide open lonely prairie to Wetaskiwin. Lewisville at that time was his nearest post office.

Although Arthur Lainchbury did not homestead in the Ferintosh district, he arrived in Wetaskiwin from Ontario in 1898. Here he remembers the few buildings, consisting of a grocery store, hardware, post office, a box car railroad station and a handful of log houses. He farmed in the Cadogan district, coming to Ferintosh in 1936, later operating a dray business in the village.



# GTP Brings Supplies

**J**OHN FREDERICK DE-  
Frain had homesteaded in  
1901 near Gadsby on the  
northeast quarter of 34-  
10-19. In 1905 he went  
buying furs for George P.  
Smith and also helped  
to haul lumber for the hotel in  
Camrose from Wetaskiwin when  
the old Arlington was built. He  
used to drive for Doctor Lamb,  
when he was at Duhamel before  
he finally went farming in the  
Ferintosh district.

Jens Peter Olson, who is still on  
his original land came out in 1901  
to settle in the Highland Park  
district west of Ferintosh on the  
southwest quarter of 18-44-21. He  
cut brush and fenced by rail to  
keep the ranchers' cattle from  
entering his land. Often they did,  
but when he managed to keep  
them out he did get a crop. He  
hauled his grain to Wetaskiwin  
for 15 cents a bushel. He tells of  
the days when the rain was too  
much for his sod roof and he

would go to the home of Olaf Han-  
son, his stepfather, who owned the  
only frame house in the district.

Olaf Hanson's farm was on the  
northwest quarter of 6-44-21, west  
of Ferintosh. He had left Sweden  
in 1890 to go to Nebraska, coming  
here in 1901.

## LITTLE BEAVER SCHOOL

Henry William Olsen came the  
same year from Nebraska settling  
on the southwest of 12-44-22. Those  
farmers west of Ferintosh went to  
the Lewisville post office, then to  
the Highland Park one until the  
service was established in Ferin-  
tosh. The first school as he recalls  
was the Little Beaver Lake School  
which was later moved into Ferin-  
tosh and a new school was built  
called Central Valley.

Ole Lars Olson settled west of  
Dorenlee in '02 on the northwest  
quarter of 10-43-21, close to the  
old Dore post office.

Many of the later settlers who

came into the area until 1910 have  
many interesting incidents to tell.

## DROVE HORSE TROLLEYS

Austin Riley was Ontario-born,  
coming to Sedgewick before com-  
ing to Ferintosh as the town's  
barber. Still in the days of hand  
clippers, the going price for a  
shave was fifteen cents and twenty-  
five cents for a hair cut. At  
one time he drove a city street  
car in Edmonton in the days when  
they were horse-drawn trolleys.

James Farris Willows, was well  
known in the New Norway district,  
having built in the village and  
bought land a mile and a half  
east and a half mile north, the  
present Haukedahl farm. In 1912  
he came to Dorenlee and bought  
land there. He now resides in  
Ferintosh.

Elmer Logan Coen, who settled  
on a homestead west of Ferintosh,  
in 1910 recalls that the first load  
of settler's effects that ever came  
into Ferintosh were brought down  
on a work train that was laying  
the steel. He is well remembered  
as a baseball player.

## DORENLEE . . . GTP Station Stop

### *Scandinavian Settlers Chose Area of Dorenlee as Homesteads*

Martin Dahl and his family were the first of a group  
of settlers who chose homesteads thirty miles south of Cam-  
rose in what was to become the Dorenlee district. When he  
arrived, the country was raw land and he located about  
half a mile east of the present town of Dorenlee. He stayed  
there about eleven years, later moving to the Donalda dis-  
trict. His daughter, now Mrs. Mabel Annette Emery, who  
was born in New Norway, recalls the early days when her mother  
used to go to Ladies' Aid on a stoneboat pulled by a team of oxen.

Carl Tronnes' father came the  
following year, taking land a half  
mile north of Dorenlee. Tronnes  
had brought his horses with him  
from Minnesota and when he used  
them for field work, his son Carl  
and his wife walked to New Norway  
and Edberg to sell eggs and  
butter to purchase groceries.

## FIVE DAUGHTERS

Erik T. Johnson was a Swedish-  
born Nebraska farmer who headed  
northwards in 1902 and settled at  
Dorenlee. His homestead was the  
southeast quarter of 16-43-20 and  
he lived with a neighbor, Mr. Moller  
while his house was being erected.  
He hauled lumber from Wetaskiwin  
and built a 9-room house in  
1902 and '03 which is still standing  
and in use. His first trip out from  
Wetaskiwin took 5 days, with a  
cortege of 5 wagons loaded with  
equipment and supplies. Part way  
home he had to unload due to the

muddy condition of the roads, stop-  
ping at the Strombergs. He had  
five daughters and no sons, so the  
feminine contingent helped break  
land. Erik was a blacksmith as

well as a farmer and did a lot of  
custom work. Soon the Johnson  
home became a stopping place for  
new settlers moving from Wetas-  
kiwin to the Saskatchewan border.

## 42 MILE DRIVE

One of Johnson's daughters,  
Cora, still resides in the district  
with her husband, J. F. De Frain.  
Her recollections of the early days  
in Dorenlee are many. She had to  
attend public school at Wetaskiwin  
which was 42 miles distant, and she  
got home on holidays, coming via  
Ponoka where she rode out with  
the mail man who called at Doren-  
lee at the Dore farm, then on  
to her father's farm where the  
mail carrier kept a fresh team.  
From there he proceeded to Ferry  
Point then returned to Ponoka. His  
trips were made twice a week.  
Later when Cora was older she  
drove a horse and buggy to school  
at Wetaskiwin, stopping off on the  
trip to watch the building of the  
Grand Trunk Pacific wooden trestle  
bridge near Duhamel.

## WON TIN LIZZIE



Cora De Frain's car she won in a Camrose Canadian  
subscription contest in 1917.

So when she returned from Seattle she kept her newly acquired driving ability to herself and resumed her teaching duties. She went into Camrose to look at her car that was in Francois Adam's garage and decided to drive it home herself in spite of family objections. She refused the Adam 'boys' offer of help and started bravely off.

#### DRIVES HOME

She had hoped to drive the car over the Battle River hills before dark, planning to wait over until the next day to continue. A threatening black cloud had gathered so she chugged off in a hurry down the trail before the roads could get muddy. As it happened she had to leave the car at her brother-in-law's place at Edberg, and it was a week before she could retrieve it.

Many a time she sat along the side of the road patching an inner

#### WINS CAR

She has another very memorable experience. She won a car from The Camrose Canadian when George Peter Smith gave them as prizes in an annual subscription contest. She had represented the Meeting Creek District in selling subscriptions. Due to the condition of the roads and the time of the year (December), she was not able to fetch her car until next May. In the meantime she and her sister, Emma, took a trip to Seattle for 4 weeks and took an automobile driving course. Her family were quite upset about her good fortune, for women didn't drive automobiles in those days, although his daughters had driven horses in the field.

tube. Once when it happened to rain as she was coming up the Battle River hill, the rain ran down into the coils and she had to back, up, wait and take the coils out to dry them. The next year she sold her car to School Inspector Thibadeau of Stettler, and left to teach at Prince Rupert. She had taught at the Meeting Creek School, later called Stockholm School, for six years, then returned six years later to take the school for another three and a half years.

Emma Johnson, 2 years younger than her sister Cora, is also still attached to the Dorenlee district where she lived with her husband, John Marcus Johanson. She, too, remembers the rugged trip from Wetaskiwin with her mother crying all the way and beseeching her husband to take her back to Nebraska. They lived without a school in that area for two years until her father joined other settlers and organized the Meeting Creek school, now known as the Stockholm School. The first teacher at this school was Margaret Moore of Ontario, who now resides in Calgary. Many are her recollections of playing around the old buffalo trails in the Meeting Creek Valley and searching for the bone piles.

#### STORE IN BUSINESS 45 YEARS

The Dorenlee hamlet came into being when the G.T.P. railroad was built in 1910 and became a station stop on the timetable of the busy railroad. However, a small community did develop in spite of the close proximity of Meeting

Creek and Edberg. Dore had been one of the early settlers of the district, and he and his father-in-law, by the name of Lee, hauled the mail from Ponoka to the Dore farm where there was a post office. They gave the postal centre the name of Dore 'n Lee, which became Dorenlee.

The first store was built by the Horteys on the Ellingson farm before the railroad came through. Other early settlers who got their mail at the Dore farm were the Nygards, Tronnes, Johnsons, Willows, Kravicks, Dahls and Stangstads.

When the steel came through the Strom Brothers built a store at the station stop, the post office moved in and a Community Church was also built. After the Strom Bros., came Rosenroll, Lou Ogilvie, Reeds, Edstrom, Knudson, G. V. Ljunggren and finally the present owner, Ed. Hegberg and his wife. The original building that was lit with coal oil lamps is still in use, now converted to electricity. The store over the years did a good business, and still prospers.

The first minister was Rev. Widen, father of David Widen of Duhamel, who handled the Baptist charge. Rev. Almgren of the Lutheran Church drove out from Duhamel to attend the Lutheran parish.

Early community groups were the Guild Community Group, when neighbors gathered in their homes to sing and dance under the leadership of Jack McIntosh. George McKay was the first teacher at the Dorenlee School.

taskiwin and took homesteads in the district that was to lie between the present towns of Edberg and Ferintosh. Ole homesteaded about a half mile from the present town of Ferintosh.

His son, Willie, homesteaded the northwest of 6-44-20, building a log house soon after arriving. This house was destroyed by prairie fire some six years later and was rebuilt. Another son, Edwin, homesteaded the southwest of 6-44-20 and he too lost his house in a prairie fire. Alfred homesteaded the Johnstone quarter, farmed by Mike Semenuk, and Marcus took the northeast quarter of the same section.

#### BREWED MEDICINES

Ole had several doctor books in his possession when he came and with the aid of these books often brewed medicine from the herbs and roots available, making very effective home remedies. The family had to get their mail and supplies from Wetaskiwin until Duhamel store and post office was established, following the buffalo trails and occasionally spotting several of the animals. There was an abundance of wild animals, deer, elk, moose, coyotes and red and silver foxes. Rabbits and prairie chickens abounded and kept many settlers from starving.

## EDBERG •••

### Land of Hills

#### *First Agricultural Development Of Edberg and Meeting Creek*

Six to seven years before the Edstrom store and post office was to become the nucleus of another settlement, a handful of rugged individuals had started the early settling of the district lying south and east of Duhamel. Numbering among these persons were Bredeesen, Dumont, Hustad, Aursness, Lindquist, Swanson and Djuve. These settlers began filtering into this area around 1893 and they formed the opening wedge that started the agricultural development of the great Indian and fur trading plains and valleys south of the old trading post of Duhamel. This district, with the coming of the railroad was to become the Meeting Creek and Edberg district which lay parallel to the Meeting Creek and Dried Meat Lake valleys. The next settlement line further west included the Bashaw, Dorenlee, Ferintosh and New Norway line, and both of these lines developed as a triangle offshoot in a southerly direction from Duhamel.

#### OLE BREDESEN

Early in the spring of '93, Ole Bredeesen, his five sons, two daughters and housekeeper, Mrs. Anderson, left Oklahoma for Alberta. They had one large car of settlers' effects which included ten head of horses, some farm equipment and household goods. At Winnipeg they stopped for a week to rest the horses, then proceeded on to We-

## INDIANS WATCHED SOD TURNING

The family turned the first furrow hereabouts, and as they turned the sod a group of Indians stood on a hill nearby and watched.

Early years were very hot and the Bredesons had almost decided to return to the States. Then in the fall of '95 the rains came. It rained for weeks and the hay stacks were covered with water.

### HAULED CREAM

Marcus Bredesen used to haul cream from the Scandinavian settlement around Meeting Creek and through that district to the creamery at Highland Park, located just south of the present Highland Park Church. There were two cream haulers and they travelled some 35 to 40 miles a day with their teams and wagons. At each stop for cream, a sample was taken, and the contents of the can then were dumped into a large barrel on the wagon. The can and contents of each load had been weighed on a beam scale rigged up in the back of the wagon. When the town of Ferintosh was started the creamery was moved to the village.

A popular place of entertainment in those days was the Moller Hall, and the Moller orchestra, complete with fiddle, banjo, and bass violin would play from dusk to sunup. Marcus Bredesen is now 71 years of age and resides with his brother Edwin on the homestead.

## Freighted Hides And Hunted Buffalo

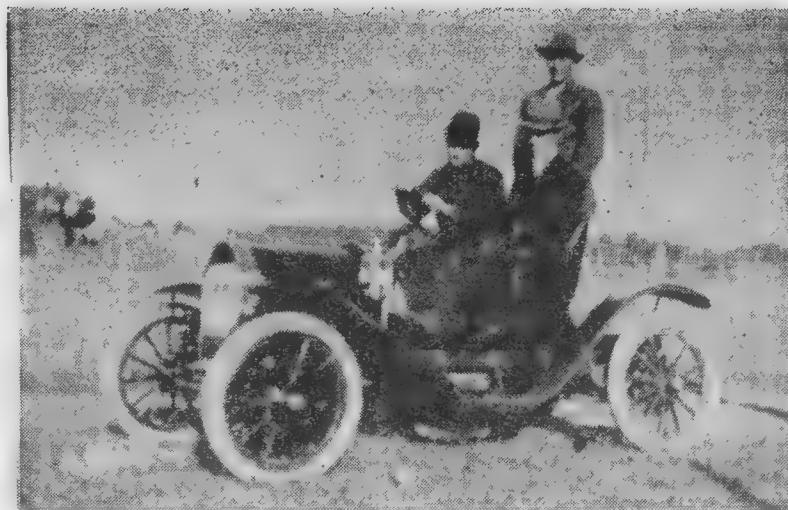
### PASCAL DUMONT WAS A REAL CHILD OF NATURE

Pascal Dumont was Alberta-born, at Lac St. Anne in the year of 1863. He was married by Father Bellevaire to Miss C. Descheneau in 1885 and took her to his home-stead close to Dried Meat Lake which he had filed on two years before his marriage. At the time of his passing in 1941 at the age of 78 years, he was considered a senior resident of the district with a continuous residence record of 65 years. The late Peter Dumont of the Edberg district was a brother to Pascal. Pascal began his apprenticeship as a hunter at an early age and soon his ability became very well known.

### LAST OF THE GRIZZLIES

He made frequent trips with ponies and oxen between Duhamel and Fort Garry freighting hides and furs and returning with supplies of flour, tea and other goods.

When Pascal Dumont was a boy, buffalo still ranged the country south and east of his home. He hunted with his brother Peter and his father Francois in the Sulivan Lake country and on south through the Hand Hills and also near the Forks (close to the present town of Empress). He was successful on these hunts in getting small numbers of buffalo.



Emil Edstrom's car, the first in the district. He called it E.M.F. (every morning fix it!)

## Travelled to the End Of the Steel in 1894

### PEDER PEDERSON

Peder Pederson was born at Aursness Aalesund Naamdal, Norway and during his early life worked at the fishing industry. Since names were often duplicated in those days, it led to numerous mistakes in business transactions. Peder Pederson decided to add another name to his, and chose the name of his birthplace. Hence the name of Peder P. Aursness, as the people of Edberg have always known him by. In 1892 he and his wife came to South Dakota and the year 1895 found them again on the move, this time northward to Alberta.

They, like so many others, heard of the new country north of the U.S. border that was opening up for settlers, so in 1894 they headed north with their two children. After getting off at the end of the steel, Wetaskiwin, he looked for land, settling on the southwest of 22-44-20.

### SHORT SEASON

Duhamel was then the nearest trading post and post office, then under Francois Adam. The grain growing season was very short and the frost came early; however they did get a small crop the first years, hauling the grain to Wetaskiwin. Mrs. Hustad passed away in 1905 leaving five young children to be cared for by Mr. Hustad. Little Anna was too small for them to care for so the Vikse family of Donald or Bethany as it was called, adopted her.

### WORKED IN MINES

The Hackberry School No. 606 was not built until the winter of 1902-03, but no school was held until 1904 when Miss Agnes Frame came out from Walkerton, Ontario to teach the pioneer children. She made her home with her brother, Malcolm Frame, who was east of the present Edberg. During the years leading up to 1904, Inga and Fred Hustad attended school near Banff for the months that the family did not have to live on the homestead. Here Mr. Hustad usually worked in the anthracite coal mines during the winter to make enough money to help on the homestead.

They came by rail to Wetaskiwin and filed on the northwest of 22-44-20. After 1900 when the sale of C.P.R. land was opened, he bought the northwest of 21-44-20, later on adding the northeast quarter. His family stayed with Andrew Jensen of Duhamel while he built the house. The first log cabin served the family until the early 1900's when a larger log house was built.

### HAVEN TO ALL

Proving up on the homestead was quite an ordeal, with summers spent brushing and breaking until the required thirty acres were broken, to qualify for the deed. The Hackberry School later served the children. Besides raising seven foster children, they opened their home to all and it became a haven radiant with hospitality for many strangers and new settlers.

Mr. Aursness was the moving factor in the organization of the Edberg Lutheran congregation and also of the building of the Edberg Church in 1913. Before the church was built, the Aursness home was one of those where services were held by visiting pastors. The couple celebrated their Golden Wedding when friends and neighbors gathered in the Edberg Hall on May 20, 1940.

# Brought Settlers In

Charlie Djuve was born in Norway, and had homesteaded in the Campbell country of South Dakota. The Canadian Government was advertising the virgin land of what is now Alberta. John Kerr was one of the first to leave Campbell County to see what the new land was like. He came up to Edmonton and finding the country very much to his liking wrote back to the Djuvés, Rasmussens and the Torkelsons, telling of the wonderful opportunities to the north.

## FREE RAILROAD PASS

Charlie had written for information to Ottawa and received in return a petition to be signed by a certain number of prospective homesteaders. In return for this he received a free pass from North Portal to Edmonton. This pass was good for three months. Halvor Thorkelson had become interested and also got signers for a free pass, however, he was one short, and was stopped at the line until the necessary signature was obtained and he could proceed.

Charlie went back to South Dakota at the end of the three months and returned again in the fall of the same year, bringing with him nine horses, including a team for Halvor Thorkelson. He drove as far as Fessenden, North Dakota and stayed over there for several weeks. He loaded his horses into a box car, along with some machinery, and continuing by train.

## SLOUGHS BURNED ALL WINTER

When he arrived in the district of his homestead, he spent the winter with John Benson. Mr. Benson lived for many years on what is known as the Tommy Morgan farm, though that was not his original homestead. Mr. Djuve recalls the climate was very dry when he first came with sloughs burning all winter long in the year 1900. He had heard a lot of tall tales about how big the vegetables grew in Alberta, so he asked one homesteader if it were true that rutabaga's grew to weigh 25 lbs. "No", replied the man, "but I did have one that weighed 23 pounds." However, regardless of the tall tales, some stands of grain were very high. Charlie recalls when Mrs. Ole Rasmussen was lost in a field of oats. They could hear her calling and could see the grain moving but it was so much taller than she was that they could not see her.

## Little Beaver Dry In 1896

Swedish-born John Peter Swanson and their children journeyed up from Kansas in 1896 and settled in what is now known as the Big Four district between the towns of

Edberg and Ferintosh, homesteading the southeast of 32-44-20. Since a prairie fire had taken its toll of the timber where they settled, they hauled logs from near Little Beaver Lake to build their home and out buildings. Little Beaver was dry when the Swansons came here from Kansas, but in 1901 when the rains came, it didn't take long for the lake and all the low places to fill up. When the Falk family came in 1902 they thought there was just water, water, everywhere! To claim a slough in those days the very early comer just cut a swath around the slough, and the hay was his.

## FIRST BURIAL GROUND

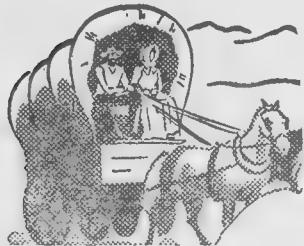
His son Charles freighted groceries from Wetaskiwin for the early stores. Married more than fifty years ago, his sons are now farming locally. Emilia, the daughter of John, came as a bride with her husband, Carl William Peterson, to the district the same time as her father. The Petersons were very active church workers, with Carl organizing the Sunday School in his district, and teaching a class as well. In 1903 he set aside three acres of his homestead for a cemetery, which became the first recognized burial ground for miles around.

One of Mrs. Peterson's greatest wishes was to have a church built but she did not live to see it. Shortly after her death in 1926 this came to a reality for Mr. Peterson with the help of his friends and neighbors, built the Fridhem Baptist Church, close to the cemetery.



Alfred Peterson's homestead shack that is still standing. The car was owned by Alfred's brother and arrived in the district shortly after the first car owned by Emil Edstrom. It had plenty of clearance, needed in those days of prairie trails.

# Weeks in Covered Wagon



Charles John Johnson had travelled from Sweden to Colorado, on to Washington where they farmed before the literature he had received from Ottawa, Canada, describing the new country to be had took effect. In 1900, early in the spring, his father headed for Wetaskiwin where me met a school friend from Sweden who had homesteaded west of Dried Meat Lake. He located close by and sent for his family to come out. Carl, his brother August, and a brother-in-law, John Carlson, decided to go. In May they loaded their covered wagons, and along with 9 horses started out on the long journey. They crossed the border at Coutts, and arrived in Wetaskiwin on the 24th day of August, making almost a four months trip. The weather that greeted them was wintry, with snow coming down.

## J.P. FOR 45 YEARS

They located their homesteads close to the one of their father's. Settlers kept pouring into the area and by 1902 a Local Improvement District was formed of which Chas. Johnson was elected overseer. He also assisted John Edstrom and Ole Bredesen in organizing the Hackberry School and served as a trustee and secretary-treasurer for a number of years. In 1904 he became a Massey-Harris agent and continued in that capacity for sixteen years. The year that Geo. P. Smith was elected M.P. he was appointed J.P. and served as such for 45 years. In 1951 he was listed as an Honorable J.P. His wife was the former Augusta Marie Lindquist, daughter of the August Lindquists who settled south of Edberg

in '98, and the couple will celebrate their Golden Wedding in September of this year.

## CLIMATE WET—SEASON SHORT

In speaking of weather and crop conditions of fifty years ago, Mr. Johnson relates that the climate was too wet and the seasons too short for the raising of wheat. Oats would usually mature, yielding some one hundred bushels to the acre. A farmer was lucky to have four or five acres broken for planting. Barley did not thrive very well but later the climate improved and the season lengthened so that wheat could be raised.

After Malcolm Frame left Ontario in 1890 he worked for some time on a ranch in southern Alberta, the ranch where Mrs. Lew Hutchinson's father, Middleton, was foreman. He then worked on the C.P.R. from Calgary north during the construction period. Early in the year 1900 when he was working on the S.S. International that carried freight and passengers between Kalso and Nelson, B.C., he decided to return to Alberta and homestead. He drew his pay and left, and at this time he decided to keep a diary of his daily doings. He did this quite faithfully and many of the following events are taken from his first diary.

## TOO BARE AND DRY

On April 19th, 1900, Malcolm left for Fort Macleod, stopping at the Klondyke Hotel there. He didn't like the country surrounding Macleod as it was too bare and dry looking so he headed out for Edmonton. When he reached Millet the surrounding country was flooded so he decided to go to Duhamel, spending his first night there with the blacksmith in his shack on the bank of the river. He bought a horse and saddle and continued, spending the next night in a hay stack on section 11-44-20. He stopped at the Cameron Ashton home on the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 2-45-20 for a bite to eat and from this point surveyed the countryside. He chose

the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 24-44-20 and pitched his tent in the middle of a blinding snowstorm on the 22nd of May.

On looking his land over he decided it was too rocky, so he gave it up and took a new homestead on the northeast of 12-44-20. Here he camped on the bank of the creek near the old Winnipeg Trail.

## WINTER AT WILLOW CREEK

He built a log stable and bought 25 head of cattle from Ezra Poitras of Duhamel. The following year he hired himself out to Jack C. Wilson for \$140 in wages and feed for his cattle, going home each night to care for them. Joe Lansing helped Frame take his cattle to the Hooks and Hancocks ranch at Willow Creek for wintering in the fall of '01, the ranch receiving 6 steers and \$35 in cash.

Ashtons had taken a contract to cut 1,000 willow posts for Joe Lambert who lived out east of Dried Meat Lake, so in February of 1902 he returned from a lumber camp in B.C., where he had been working, to give them a hand cutting posts. He also built a boat to fish with on Dried Meat Lake.

## SILVER CREEK SCHOOL

His sister Agnes came out from Manitoba in 1904 to live with him and she started teaching school at the new Hackberry School, that opened on April 23rd, 1904. The next year he took his sister to board at Ellingsons and teach school at Silver Creek School. (This Silver Creek School now serves as a school bus garage on the Warren Lundstrom farm).

Malcolm Frame was the first Justice of the Peace in the district and helped organize the Old Edberg school, being chairman for several years. He was an early member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and of the United Grain Growers. Their son Ivan now owns and lives on the Joe Lansing homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Frame retired to Camrose in 1946 and still reside there.

Jens Christian Ramm came to the New Norway district and homesteaded on the southeast of 30-44-20, bringing his family with him from Minnesota. He lived there until 1928 when he sold the homestead to Mrs. A. B. Johnson and purchased the John Winning homestead some five miles northwest of Edberg. His son Jens also purchased the half-section across from the Winning farm.

## CELEBRATES 5 SCORE YEARS

His greatest wish was to live to be one hundred years old, his father before him having just missed the mark. He lived beyond his expectation, reaching the grand old age of 102 years at the time of his passing in 1950. Honoring him at his centennial, the Edberg district paid tribute to him with a community celebration in the Edberg Hall. He was one of the oldest and earliest members of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

## FIRST TRAIN TO ARRIVE



Come in with supplies for the crews and brought the first load of settlers' supplies with it.

# Bears Made Life Hard



WO MORE large families came up from Campbell County as previously mentioned, the Rasmussen family and the family of Halvor Torkelson, both of which had emigrated from Norway.

In 1900 Ole Rasmussen, wife and three sons arrived close behind Charlie Djuve and settled in the Edberg district. Chris Johnson had filed on the northeast of 22-44-20 about 1895 but gave this up and Ole took it over and proved up the land. He built a shack that is still standing. He later sold this land to the Telnings and which is now being farmed by John E. Telings's daughter, Mrs. August Anderson. While he was building his house Ole lived in the home of the John Hustads, who were spending the summer working in B.C.

In 1906 Ole sold his homestead to Telning and bought the Fred Meke place (now known as the Arthur Rasmussen farm and is farmed by Arthur's daughter and husband, the LeRoy Ramseys). There Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen resided until their passing, Mrs. Rasmussen in 1926 and Ole in 1942.

## HAULED MAIL ROUTE

Arthur sold his farm, Hobert's homestead, to Pete Holden in 1925, living there and renting it until the time of his mother's death, when he moved to the farm of his dad. Arthur married Laura Sorenson, daughter of pioneer homesteaders in the Donalda district. Arthur's wife, Mrs. Laura Rasmussen now operates a cafe in Edberg. For 14 years Arthur hauled the mail for the Edberg mail route and had an enviable record of having missed only one day in that time.

Randolph Rasmussen homesteaded near Donalda where he still resides; and an account of his life can be found in the Donalda section of the pioneers.

## TOWN COP

For eight years Hobert was town policeman for New Norway, looking quite impressive in his uniform.

Halvor Thorkelson was the pioneer who had made a survey trip to Edmonton and written to all his friends at Campbell County, in the Dakotas. The first year he was here in 1900 he worked on the railroad section at Wetaskiwin and then filed on his homestead on the southeast of 22-44-20. Soon his friends came up and they all tied into their problems together. Although most of the settlers had brought their household furnishings and some machinery and horses, some were still in need of equipment. There were no jobs available locally since no one could afford to hire another so the settlers exchanged work with one another, with no cash involved.

## CHURCH BUILDING IN 1907



Randolph Rasmussen of Donalda, helps to build the Edberg Lutheran Church in 1907.

## Better Than Black Hills

The Black Hills country of South Dakota had been the ranching country where Cameron Ashton and his two sons, Gale and Wade, had run up to 500 head of cattle and some one hundred and fifty horses. This family was one of the few pioneer families to travel to this area by covered wagon. They made the trip with two covered wagons from Rapid City, South Dakota, to Wetaskiwin in only 52 days, starting out in '98.

From Wetaskiwin, they journeyed some forty miles south and eastward, finally choosing their homestead close to Dried Meat Lake. Here, they again took up ranching and started homesteads. Homesteading close by was the Henry H. Miller family. These families were situated one mile east and three miles north of what was to become Edberg.

Miller came to the townsite in 1919 to run a garage and pool room, which he sold out some eleven years later and moved to Jarrow to go into the store business, moving from there to Millet.

Henry A. Miller, son of H. H. Miller, homesteaded the Edberg

townsite, later selling it in 1910 when the town was built. After his marriage in 1913, he lived east of Ferintosh for eight years, and later moved to Bashaw, where he still resides.

Arthur Halstead had homesteaded on this side of Wetaskiwin in '01, but two years later he gave it up and came to Edberg to re-file on a homestead one and a half miles from the old Edberg site. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law, Emil Edstrom, in a saw mill for a few years, losing his hand in an accident. He and Emil also operated a steam thresher. In about 1912 he moved to Edberg, where he was in the hotel and implement business. In 1920 he moved to Camrose, where he operated a taxi business for 29 years, passing away in 1949.

The country south and east of Edberg was settled mostly by Swedish people, some of whom had come directly from Sweden and some from Minnesota. Among these was E. A. Moller, a very good fiddler. He built a big hall five miles south of Old Edberg



Two young boys, Art Hoult, Wendt, and C. L. Johnson busy making way for the first sidewalks in Edberg.

# Early Town of Edberg Fathered by Edstroms

It is generally acknowledged in this area that with the coming of the Edstrom family, Edberg had its first beginnings, for here came a man that assisted other settlers as well as his own family by bringing the first store and post office into what was later to become Old Edberg. The name of the town itself is derived from the family name, for the first post-office and store was called "Ed's berg". Ed. came from Edstrom, and berg was the Swedish word for hills. It seemed quite fitting as the Edstrom home was on a high hill, surrounded by many hills.

John Anton Edstrom and his wife came from Sweden with their five children in 1890, sailing aboard the *Velhelmina*. They homesteaded in LaMoure County in North Dakota.

## LAKE HOMESTEAD

As the years went by more and more was heard about Western Canada and the golden opportunities offered there. Son Emil, now 18, was most anxious to go out to this new land, and his chance came when Jonas Joneson set out for the Buford district. Emil accompanied him but did not like the area so he returned to Wetaskiwin and journeyed some 38 miles eastward. Here the country pleased him and he selected his homestead on 16-44-20 beside a small lake. He was so pleased with the country that he returned to Dakota and persuaded his father to bring the rest of the family to Canada.

## BARREL OF COFFEE

John Edstrom disposed of his Dakota homestead and loaded a settlers car with horses, cows, pigs, chickens and household goods. Fearing that they would not be able to buy coffee in the new land, they also brought along a large barrel of coffee. They arrived in October of 1900 and journeyed overland by team and wagon to spend the winter in the large log house vacated by Gus and Martin Friberg on the land which is now the home of Hjalmer Berglunds. Here there was a large stable with plenty of room for livestock. The weather was favorable, enabling him to get his homestead buildings up and the family moved to the homestead in the spring of '01, on the north half of 16-44-20. Here the Jack Harris family now live. Oscar Edstrom homesteaded the northwest of section 10, now owned by Archie Olstad.

## STORE AND POST OFFICE

In 1900 the closest store being the one of Francois Adam at Duhamel, John Edstrom started a store and post office at his home. The first supplies for the store were brought in from Wetaskiwin by his son Oscar who made the journey on foot, packing the supplies on his back. Homesteaders brought in their butter and eggs to the store to trade for groceries. Butter was

the Edensville store.

## SAW MILL

There were many large trees and some good stands of timber in the early days, especially in the hills around Dried Meat Lake, so in the year 1904 Emil Edstrom and Art Halstead started a saw mill on the Oscar Edstrom homestead. Here the homesteaders brought their logs to be sawed into lumber for use in building their homes. As they had no planer, it was all rough sawed they moved it about the country, lumber. The mill was portable and sawing lumber at Silver Creek, Dried Meat Lake, and in 1907 moved south of Meeting Creek and sawed 5,000 feet of lumber for Hugo Anderson and Willie Oberg. This lumber was used for barns and granaries. Life was not without mishap, for it was at this saw mill that Art Halstead lost his hand, and a good team was ruined in the wild twenty-mile dash to Camrose for a doctor.

## EDENSVILLE STORE MOVED

When it became certain that the CNR was going to build their roadbed and that a new townsite was to be on the southeast quarter of Section 14, the Henry Miller homestead, Emil decided to move his Edensville store to the new site. In the fall of '09, sleighs were made and preparations for moving begun. Several teams of horses were used in the actual moving. With the help of A. L. Peterson and his father Ludwig, the moving was completed without mishap in February of 1910. The new townsite had taken the name of Edberg. (More about the Edstrom building in the story on the townsite development.)

The homesteads of Emil and John Edstrom are now owned by Jack Harris, and the old Edberg store is a part of the Harris house on the hill. Emil built in Edberg, having purchased 67 acres of scrip land that his brother Oscar had first obtained, and in 1916 built a three-roomed house on this land. After his death his wife later married Emil Lundstrom, and this place is now the home of their son, Warren Lundstrom.

## WIND URGED FIRE ALONG



Prelude to disaster for Edberg merchants.



Cleaning up after the disastrous fire that wiped out several Edberg businesses.

## Family Helped Mightily

Nine years before the residents became certain that the CNR were going to build their railroad in their area, the Edstrom store on the homestead had been serving the settlers with groceries and mail. But with the grade put through in 1909 the Edstrom families concentrated their business efforts in the direction of the new townsite and contributed mightily in its growth.

Emil Edstrom moved his Edens-ville store to the townsite arriving with the building in February of 1910.

### HOTEL

In the spring of the same year John Edstrom and Art Halstead built a new hotel (which was called a boarding house in those days). It was a two storey edifice with nine bedrooms and a hallway upstairs and several large rooms downstairs. It was a standing joke that the boarding house was doing a rushing business long before anyone had time to hang the doors. The Halsteads and Edstroms saw the coming need of a stopping place for the settlers they felt would come with the railroad and the boarding house with a small livery stable went up quickly. Mr. Edstrom's homestead store was just two and a half miles west of the new townsite.

### NEW POST OFFICE

At the same time Oscar Edstrom commenced building a new Post Office and at its completion "Old Edberg" was abandoned in favor of the new townsite which carried his father's name. In the late fall of 1910 the little community was saddened by the death of the founder, John A. Edstrom. Several years previous to his passing Mrs. Edstrom, who had come to love the country with the trees and hills and lakes so like her native Sweden, became crippled by a fall and spent 25 years in a wheel chair, passing away in 1929. She was affectionately known far and wide as Grandma Edstrom.

### FIRST TRAIN IN 1910

The first train came through Edberg in 1910 and the townsite was surveyed the following year. Lawrence Frang was one of the men who worked on the grade between Stettler and Duhamel, and is still employed by the C.N.R. are Edberg.

Albert Rollag and Wendt started a real estate and insurance business, handling farm land and residential lots. Knapp and Ferguson conducted a farm implement business that had a wide patronage.

A larger livery stable was built by Knut Johnson who later sold to the senior Mr. Grasdahl and then to Henry Frang. As this was the horse and buggy days, the business was a lively one. As the homesteaders were getting more and more land cleared and producing crops, a grain elevator was needed. Emil Edstrom had been the first grain buyer, with grain being shovelled by hand into the grain cars.

### ELEVATOR

It soon became apparent that some means of storage was very necessary, so he built a large storage bin. This also was inadequate so in 1912 he built Edberg's first elevator which is still in use today. In 1911 the Settlers' Lumber Company started a lumber yard in the village with Emil as manager. He shortly bought them out and ran the business independently.

In 1911 Emil built a house in the town where the Ali Dumonts now live. It was their home for years and was sold to Pouplier in 1916 and then built the home that is now the home of Mrs. August Johnson.

Oscar Edstrom continued in the

post office until 1914 when it was taken over by Alan Younge. He also ran a small novelty store and printing shop, handling all sorts of novelties, jewellery, drugs and patent medicines.

### MORE BUSINESSES

Barnstable and his brother-in-law, Belcher, built a hardware store that was located quite near the town well. This hardware store business was carried on in this building until 1938 when a new hardware was built on another location. Right across from the hardware, Anton Flohr started the first butcher shop and a few paces west of this the Otteson's started a restaurant. After the restaurant business sold out, Mrs. Anderson operated a Hat Shop in the same premises. The building in later years was used for living quarters until it was torn down in 1954.

Albert Batke built the first pool hall and this was later sold to C. L. Johnson. Harvey Kibbe built and operated the blacksmith shop which was a very busy place, sharpening plow shares, shoeing horses and repairing implements. Kibbe later sold out and took over the elevator when Edstrom resigned.

The old Edberg trading post store operated by the Edstrom Bros., was sold to J. Harris and Milton Hardy. They formed the Edberg Merchantile Company of which Harris was president and Hardy was the manager. In 1914 Oscar Nelson and John Olson opened the Alberta Trading Company store, which was a general store.

### FIRST RESIDENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Podder were among the very first residents. Mr. Podder was a carpenter and built many houses which are still standing. The first years they were in the town Mrs. Podder would haul the mail twice a week to Ferintosh with a team and buggy.

The first school (Hackberry) was located about one mile west of the present townsite and as the town steadily grew a new two-room school was built in 1913. This was replaced by another newer and more modern school in 1949.

Frank Nundahl operated the first barber shop and before that time anyone who was handy with a comb and a pair of scissors would do the job and it is told that C. L. Johnson was called upon quite regularly.

### L.I.D.

When Edberg was in the hamlet stage it was in a Local Improvement District later going into the M.D. of Evergreen No. 427 in 1918. Land taxes at that time were \$12 per quarter which was partly worked out in labor. Hamlet tax was 25¢ per lot, and no tax was levied on the businesses. Blue Smith as a constable, took in Edberg on his route when he was with the R.N.W.M.P.

The hamlet kept on growing and finally came the building of the Lutheran Church with the travelling pastor, Nodvedt, serving the parish. Later on Rev. Gilseth of

Chicago took over the charge. Rev. Hamilton held the Methodist services for a time in the Edberg Hotel.

Business prospered, changed hands and prospered some more. Farmers raised more grain, and went into livestock. Woodland's Dairy established a cream station (located now where Herman's Service Station stands) and then tested the cream and shipped it to a creamery at another point.

Two young men from Hobbema started a garage when cars came into being and C. L. Johnson had a car and officiated as the local taxi.

#### FIRE

By 1924 several businesses had changed hands again and in May of 1924 a fire broke out in the W. J. Small store. The Edstrom Hotel was one of the buildings to go, but many of the destroyed businesses rebuilt.

#### BANK ROBBERY

Edberg became sensational overnight in May of 1928, when two bandits attempted to rob the Imperial Bank by blowing the safe. The robbers were foiled in their attempt and their capture resulted in a three-day manhunt in which Edberg residents participated in rounding up the fugitives. A large sum of money had been deposited in the bank the previous day, about \$10,000. Bank manager M. J. Cook managed to get in touch with the manager at Ferintosh, A. S. Rosenroll when he discovered the robbers red handed. Then he went back to the bank and opened fire on the robbers. They were rounded up in three days with the help of hundreds of people, and sentenced to lengthy terms in jail.

The population of Edberg continued to grow and in 1930 it was officially incorporated into a Village. The first mayor was N. A. Coutts and W. J. Small and N. Dondlinger were councillors.

## Left Bald Prairies



ARTHUR T. Bradbury got his fill at an early age homesteading with his father on the bald-headed prairies of the Dakotas. Few natural advantages were available there — no wood, only twisted hay and cow chips as fuel. He and his wife packed up their effects and loaded their livestock into settlers' cars bound for Wetaskiwin in '01. Contrary to many settlers' experiences, the October day he landed was warm and sunny. He travelled out as far as Half-Way house, where his wife and sister, Bessie, who had accompanied them, stayed until the cabin was erected. His homestead was just south of the Miller farm, on the southwest of 30-44-20, on the shores of Dried Meat Lake. By December, they were comfortably settled, and the weather so fine

they had their Christmas dinner with the cabin door open. New Year's Day they went fishing through the ice with only light sweaters as outer garments. Recalls Mr. Bradbury, "there was so little wind in those days that the wash could be hung to dry without clothes pins".

#### WIFE HAULED COAL

He then purchased the quarter adjoining on the west from Jim Jerred for pasture, and later another quarter which was broken with a big steam engine. As the engine required coal for fuel, it became the job of Mrs. Bradbury to haul coal from the Sikstrom mine, while Arthur and his helper did the plowing. Each trip took Mrs. Bradbury through what is now Edberg's main street, then only a prairie trail.

South of the Bradbury's were Joe Lansing and Harvey Kibbe, who were both "batching" then, and the Ashton's.

#### FIRST EDBERG LIGHTS

No school was available until the Edberg school was built, and the children had to go four miles, a real hardship in the winter. In 1920, the Bradbury's purchased the Pouplier house (formerly Emil Edstrom's home), and took over the cream station, buying cream for the Paulson Creamery at Camrose until they discontinued the agency. Then they rented the farm for a few years and did draying until '26, when they bought the Edberg Hardware store, later selling it to Hjalmer and Rudolph Anderson of Wetaskiwin. Edberg's first electric lighting system was from a Delco plant owned and operated by Bradbury. Mrs. Bradbury was secretary-treasurer of the Hackberry school for several years and also was district correspondent for The Camrose Canadian. They moved to Edmonton in 1936.

William H. Douglas and his wife, parents of Mrs. Bradbury, came up the next year, in '02, to settle in the Dried Meat Lake district, near the present site of Edberg, staying in the house on the farm later purchased by William Ramsier while he built his home. After becoming settled there, he operated a blacksmith shop at Heather Brae, across the lake, which he operated for several years, later moving the shop to his farm. He was also a member of the Dried Meat Lake school board for several years.

#### HALF-WAY HOUSE

Their eldest daughter, Mrs. Lily McNary, and family were the

first of their children to settle in Alberta. They had come up to Bittern Lake, where they operated Half-Way House—a stopping place for new settlers who were building their homes. Here, Mrs. McNary, despite her busy life, accompanied Dr. Stewart on his many maternity calls over this far-reaching district. As there were few roads, the pair usually rode horseback.

Alfred Peterson, whose father operated a feed mill at Heather Brae, homesteaded at Edberg in '05, after living at Heather Brae since '02, on the southwest of 24-43-20. He had one of the first steamer threshing rigs in the district and did much custom threshing, and land breaking. Before the hotel at Duhamel was moved to the Rosenroll (now Bittern Lake) site, Alfred used to ferry up and down the river with his boat. In 1918, he went into purebred livestock, starting an R.O.P. test of his herd. He had the highest rating Holstein herd in Alberta, and has some twelve or thirteen hundred ribbons won by his herd.

Magnus Nystrom, his wife and two sons, Oscar and Gus, came to Edberg from Duluth, Minnesota, in '02, staying at the Peter Erickson home until they located. He bought the southwest of 15-44-20, then C.P.R. land, which is now owned by his grandson, Gordon Nystrom.

After the founding of the Edberg Lutheran church by Aursness, Hustad and Olafson's, the Nystrom's were instrumental in keeping the good work going, and supporting the church. The church was built in 1913 by Randolph Rasmussen for the sum of \$150.00.

#### BUILT SCHOOL

Oscar Nystrom was a trustee of the Edberg School for about twenty-five years, starting in 1920. Mr. Nystrom and Oscar built the old house on the Thorkelson place and the Hackberry school for \$125.00 in the year of '02-'03, hauling the lumber from Wetaskiwin.

When John Telning came up from North Dakota in 1906, he bought the Ole Rasmussen homestead, about a mile from the old Edberg post office. The Andrew Johnson's, who came in '08, bought three quarters from Harry Lein. Emil Lundstrom had accompanied the Johnson's and Fred Chase families. Emil went back to the States to farm, returning to Edberg in 1920, when he married the widow of Emil Edstrom.

## EDBERG BEFORE THE STEEL CAME



#### BOUGHT C.P.R. LAND

The journey to Meeting Creek area was a fifty-mile trek from Wetaskiwin, but the settlers who came were possessed of the spirit of the true explorer and pioneer. They came "lock, stock and barrel", and they came to stay. Most of the settlers had a little money from the sale of their Dakota homestead lands and they bought C.P.R. lands at prices ranging from three to five dollars an acre.

Numerous attractions for the farmer were present in this district and the first settlers were able to take advantage of the fact that the area was most suitably adapted to mixed farming. The rolling prairie sloped gently towards the river valley and afforded ideal grazing area for cattle and horses. The soil was clay-bottomed loam and was very fertile. Each early farmer endeavored to raise enough grain each year to feed a bunch of cattle for the spring market. Raising of hogs and sheep followed naturally, and the country in ten years developed into one of the heaviest shippers of livestock.

#### DAIRYING

Dairying was the next natural outgrowth in the district so well suited for stock raising. A few years of grain raising and beef cattle gave many farmers the financial opportunity to accumulate a dairy herd. Farmers organized a co-operative creamery which served the entire district, having realized that grain turned into cheese and butter was quite as profitable as grain turned into lard and bacon.



C. L. JOHNSON'S DRAY IN EDBERG

## MEETING CREEK . . . In Scenic Valley

### *Dairying, Livestock, Natural Growth*

The name Meeting Creek suggests a river valley where long ago the copper-colored aborigines were wont to mingle. Historians have established this, but the area also saw the gathering of another clan, that of the South Dakota farmers. This portion of Alberta will probably never correctly estimate just how much it owes to South Dakota. The first settler who came from that portion of Uncle Sam's territory should have a monument erected to his honor. Whoever he was, he was like a Moses, pointing the children of the Dakotas to the promised land. He led the way, and hundreds followed.

#### EXODUS BEGAN

It was shortly after the turn of the century that this particular exodus began and the town of Wetaskiwin was then in the heyday of its prosperity. Wetaskiwin claimed these settlers only as temporary sojourners until they were ready to venture into the virgin wilderness that lay east of the steel.

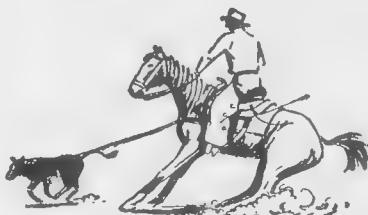
There was nothing to lead them and only a few trails to guide their travels. The present city of Camrose was the site of a lonely settler's dugout, and the scores of small towns that are now in existence were not even dreamed of.



FIRST LOAD OF STOCK SHIPPED OUT OF EDBERG



CONSTRUCTION GANG LAYING RAILS



# Town Gets P.O. in 1911

The family of Israel August Torhjelm were the first settlers south of Meeting Creek, homesteading on the southwest quarter of 12-43-20. Their home sheltered dozens of settlers en route through the country, and at one time, as remembered by his children, 17 men stopped overnight in their small one-roomed farm home while they were building their own homes. The children remember the most exciting day of their life—when they discovered a house had been erected only a mile away from their home.



NE OF THE big problems in the Torhjelm family the first year was to get milk for a 6 months old baby, as the closest cow was about three miles away. A flooding creek had to be crossed to reach this home, and this chore fell to 9-year-old Edward and 6-year-old Harold. The family, especially the children, had a great fear of the Indians who roamed the countryside in large bands. Their father spent many weeks in lumber camps and breaking land for other people to support his family.

## MIDWIFE

Israel Oberg and his wife, Klara, homesteaded two and a half miles southwest of the present town, and Mrs. Oberg became well known as a midwife in the district, bringing many babies into the world. She was considered one of the most outstanding women in the district, and would travel anywhere the moment she was called. She had many experiences, none of which daunted her. One baby arrived with six fingers, and Mrs. Oberg promptly cut off the extra appendage with the scissors. Another time she was hurrying through the dark night with an anxious father . . . he was driving the wagon and Mrs. Oberg was sitting on a chair in the wagon holding the lantern . . . the rough ground finally unseated the midwife and put out the lantern. However, she managed to persuade the worried driver to continue, by telling him to use the moon overhead to guide him.

## BOAT FERRIES GRAIN

James A. Westergard and his brother, S. E. Westergard, had located on C.P.R. land on the southeast of 9-43-19, which the old Winnipeg trail crossed through. His first crop was one double wagon-box of oats, which was threshed by a horse-power thresher that was hand-fed.

There were no bridges across Meeting Creek, and as the Westergard homestead was on the opposite side from where James lived, he and his brother, Sivert, built a boat. One day a man came driving a wagon of grain, and said that he wished to cross. The brothers took the grain across in the boat, swam the horses across and pulled the wagon

across, hitched to the boat.

Both brothers were members of the early band, and today only two members are still living, James Westergard and Charlie Brandell.

## MOVED TO TOWN

H. R. Sayers homesteaded on the northeast of 10-43-20, and in the fall of 1905 he had the store and post office of Edensville. This was sold to Nyberg's in 1908, and came back into Mr. Sayers' hands in 1910. In June of 1911 the building was moved to Meeting Creek. The Sayers homestead was an early stopping place for settlers and, as recalled by his son, Chester Sayers, M.L.A., fire swept the land every year, and there were no green trees much higher than a child's head nor more than two inches in thickness. One fire could be seen for weeks, with the reflection of the fire and smoke, which was thought to have originated in Saskatchewan.

In looking over his father's old store ledgers, Chester Sayers found a few old prices: calico selling for 11¢ a yard, 39 pounds of meat for \$1.95, and 100 pounds of flour for \$2.25. These prices were in effect in 1906.

## WALK 40 MILES TO WED

Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Anderson settled two and a half miles southwest of Meeting Creek, and

were made of sterner "stuff", for when they married in October of 1902, along with two other couples and attendants, they walked forty miles to the minister. Hugo and his brother invested in a team of horses and farmed jointly with them. Tribulations aplenty awaited them—an early frost took their first crop, and the first hail storm killed their chickens and destroyed another crop. Three years ago they retired to Meeting Creek from their homestead. Mrs. Anderson was a daughter of Israel Oberg. Their marriage took place in Sweden two weeks before they sailed for Canada.

# Taught Own Child

The family of De Witt Clinton Tiffany came in 1902. De Witt was a school teacher, and until the school was started he taught his children in his own home, having regular school each day. Son Vern recalls going with the hired man to Ferry Point to trade butter for feed oats. Brothers, Vern and Newell, moved houses in the early days, transferring many buildings to the hamlet of Meeting Creek when it started. Among the buildings moved were the home which had the post office in it (Edensville, which was established December 1, 1903, where Israel Jonson, father of Hjalmer Jonson, was post master, later taken over by Sayers), and the school house, that is now Dagmar Peterson's home.

Vern Tiffany was one of the first pupils who attended the opening of the Little Rock School. The old Tiffany house, which was built in 1902, was the first frame house in the district, and due to its size was the scene of many hospitable neighborhood gatherings. Two spruce trees were planted when the house was built, and have now reached the height of 40 feet. Vern and his brother, Earl, later ran a saw mill at Meeting Creek and did custom work with their threshing machine.



Hardly a prairie town escaped the scourge of fire in the early days. Taken in 1915, the smoking remains of the A.P. elevator in Meeting Creek, left many a heavy heart.

# Huge Picnic Heralds Arrival of Steel Crew

**N**AUGUST of 1911 the railroad was not yet in operation but a familiar sound through the valley was that of the cook of the C.N.R. ballasting crew beating out a mighty tattoo on the iron dinner gong. The merchants of the town got together and organized a farmers' picnic as a celebration, holding it on a level tract of country situated north of the town. Over five hundred people arrived at the picnic from New Norway, Ferintosh, Bashaw, Donalda, Stettler and Camrose, with Geo. P. Smith, M. P. P., being the official speaker.

H. P. Sperry was secretary of the picnic committee, composed of merchants and citizens with the assistance of committee members: Harris Oium, President, C. F. Sealand, Camfield, Brandle and Stenlund of the reception committee; and Bye, Anderson, Tellman, J. Custer and J. Westergard.

## TOWN FESTIVE

It was a memorable day, that 10th day of August, 1911, for the town was gaily decorated with flags and evergreen trees. Among the principal places of business were: C. F. Sealand's general store, Camfield and Sperry hardware, Manning-Sutherland Lumber Co., Korstad and Andreson's livery barn, Chas. Brandle's meat market, John Custer's pool hall, and Ed. Korstad's boarding house. The post office was under the management of Mrs. Camfield.

In the ten months preceding August, over \$15,000 worth of livestock had been shipped out of the Meeting Creek district, which in itself was cause for jubilation.

## BAND ACTIVE

The Meeting Creek band was in attendance at the picnic, instituting a refreshment booth at the picnic grounds during the afternoon and playing for the dance in the evening. Ferintosh, New Norway, Camrose and Donalda ball teams played exciting games during the afternoon. Ferintosh had enlisted the help of New Norwayites and Camrose Twilight leaguers, but received a severe trouncing from Donalda. Horse and pony races concluded the exciting day.

## 30 SETTLERS ON ONE TRAIN

Businessman Harry Oium journeyed to the States in the winter of 1911-12, and as a result of his visit managed to bring more settlers to his town. On April 8, 1912, seven carloads of settlers' effects passed through Camrose bound for Meeting Creek. With these cars were thirty settlers from Nebraska, who had come as a unit with 69 horses and full equipment of farm machinery. Heads of these families were: Gus Palmquist, Alfred Pearson, Emil Nystrom, Edwin Larson, Chas.

Anderson, William Haugen and John Hagen. One party brought a complete steam threshing and plowing outfit.

## TWO TRAINLOADS OF CATTLE

It did not take Meeting Creek farmers long to live up to their promise of livestock by the carload to ship on the railway. The most impressive shipment was made on October 21, 1914, when a whole trainload of cattle was made up in Meeting Creek, billed to Winnipeg. The train consisted of 600 head of cattle belonging to Chas. Pelter and Sons, and occupied 27 cars. The train was consigned to Wahley & Co. of Winnipeg. This was not the only one made, for C. Hubbell, John Strieberg, E. H. Green, L. Willson and Jos. Hunter were also heavy shippers.

A second trainload of cattle left eight months later, destined for Chicago. Chas. Pelter was again the shipper, and this time 23 cars carried some 460 head of cattle.

The present egg-grading station was the site of Brandell's meat market, and the general store of Sealund's, which burned down. Peterson brothers built a store in 1912, now operated by Chris Jensen.

In 1910 the Progress Lumber Co. took over the Manning-Sutherland lumber yard, which is now operated by the Beaver Lumber.

The first blacksmith shop was opened in 1912 by John Gitmore.

Churches came into being with the Mission Covenant being the first, later followed by the Lutheran. Besides the ladies' aids and other societies, Meeting Creek formed the first Social Credit ladies' group in the province in later years. Besides the Mary's Villa School, Little Rock, Glen Park and Hazel Grove also served the area. Among the early teachers were Miss Dingwall, Miss Ringwall (Mrs. Howard Sperry), and Miss Ruby Ranks.

## Oysters Fete Band

As a new settlement in a new country, Meeting Creek had to await the advent of the railways. Produce had to be marketed year after year regardless of the difficulties. But the development of each settlement in this district lying east of Wetaskiwin was one of the best means of securing a network of railways for the whole. In this respect, Meeting Creek did its part and made the evidences of its prosperity so pronounced and the prospect of its being able to support a railway so clear, that when the branch line of the C.N.R. was

projected from Vegreville on the main line to Calgary, it was surveyed to pass down the Meeting Creek Valley.

## PETITION FOR STOCK CARS

No sooner were the rails laid to this point late in the fall of 1910, than the stockmen of the district sent in requests for freight cars to ship stock to Edmonton and Winnipeg. This was an assurance to the railway company that the export trade from the Meeting Creek district would be quite considerable from the day the line was put into regular operation.

## TWO POST OFFICES

With the advent of the railway and the laying of a siding, came the need for a townsite. The company secured eighty acres of land along the river valley, and in October of that year the survey into town lots was made. Away to the west of the townsite was a country post office and store called Edensville, that had been built by Emil Edstrom and sold to Axel Norberg. Norberg built a new Edensville store in 1907 at the present site of the home of Lawrence Torhjelm, which he sold to Edstrom. To the east of the townsite, about another five miles, was the post office of Meeting Creek. It was evident that one or both of these post offices and store would move to the new townsite. However, Edstrom moved his Edensville store to Edberg, so the townsite took the name of Meeting Creek (officially adopted on February 1st, 1912).

Before the development of the townsite took place, the first school had been organized and a band got together to supply musical entertainment.

## MARY'S VILLA SCHOOL

In January of 1909, four acres of ground were selected and a 25-foot by 36-foot school erected along with a large woodshed and stable accommodation for the horses, named Mary's Villa School. The school's first class numbered eleven scholars. In the first six months of 1910 these pupils established 100 per cent attendance record. Miss Lillian Dingwall was the first teacher, followed by Miss Olive Dingwall; School Inspector Thibaudieu of Stettler was the inspector in charge.

## MOLLER'S HALL



Built over a period of three years from 1900. Dance hall upstairs, and children put to bed on same floor. Dining room and living quarters downstairs.

#### MEETING CREEK BAND

In the summer of 1909, Roy Camfield organized a band of thirteen players, all of whom were farmers of that neighborhood. The band was called into service for picnics at Buffalo Lake, Norbo and Ferry Point, and made a decided hit at the Camrose agricultural fair on opening day, and also in the band competitions held the second day of the fair. On May 14th, 1910, the band played loud and gloriously as they welcomed the C.N.R. steel gang into Meeting Creek.

Members of the band were Roy Camfield, leader; E. L. Camfield, Fred Anderson, Chas. Mittenberger, Chas. Brandell, Wm. Bottcher, S. Westergard, J. W. Westergard, A. Tellman, H. Kibbe, J. Sand, Ab. Tellman and J. Albers. The band met once a month for practice and if members did not put in an appearance they were fined. Various homes were thrown open as meeting places, and once a month an oyster supper was given to them in the school building.

Some of the settlers arriving in the Meeting Creek area in 1901 included Israel August Torhjelm, part of the Anderson family, H. R. Sayers, and John Hansen. In the next couple of years the Israel Oberg family, the Green's from Oregon, Westergard brothers, Hugo Anderson's, and the Tiffany family. Many more people settled this area, but unfortunately their names and history eluded the historical department of The Canadian, but some of the interesting events are related in this article.

#### SWAMP FEVER

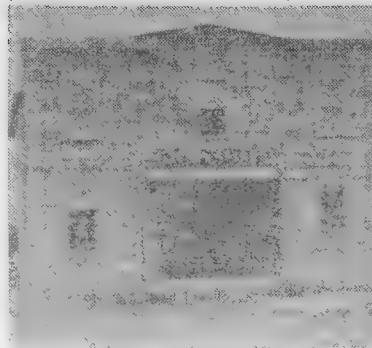
Mrs. Charles Brandell came as a child with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hansen, from the Dakotas. In the party were her grandfather, uncle, six brothers and sisters. The party drove by team to the border and then shipped their goods to Wetaskiwin. The first summer they camped in the flat south of Meeting Creek, and they lost many of their horses with swamp fever the first years. Later they bought oxen, and as Mrs. Brandell was the eldest child, she spent many a day driving these animals on her father's farm.

#### WOODEN SHOES

She also helped to trap muskrats, and sold the pelts for eight cents each. Most vivid in her recollections is the time her father was away on a three-day trip to Wetaskiwin for supplies and her mother scraped the bottom of the flour barrel to make water gravy. Before her father returned, one of the men killed a badger, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The first year, the grandfather made wooden shoes for the children.

#### PHELAN PLACE

Mrs. Johanna Schultz's father and brother (Johnson) had homesteaded the old Phelan place and run a stopping place for settlers going on further south and east, some as far as eighty miles. They also freighted from Wetaskiwin before they lost most of their horses by swamp fever. They broke land for many settlers, and her father was the first well-driller in the district. Mrs. Schultz



#### JOHN DEERE SHOP

Implement shop operated by Bill Ferguson.

is still resident in the area, moving to Meeting Creek town from the farm last fall.

#### LEARNS TO TRAP

Oregon immigrants were the Green family, which included three small children. Afton Green was then but a two-year-old lad, and today he resides on his father's homestead. Afton recalls one winter that his father went to see George La Rose on the shores of Buffalo Lake. Green was at the end of his rope—he had no money, and a family to care for. Being Oregon-raised, Green didn't know about muskrats; but La Rose soon set him straight, showing him how to trap the 'rats. Although the early settlers only received from eight to eleven cents a pelt, they could be traded for groceries and sometimes for cash.

## DONALDA •••

### Where Buffalo Roamed

#### *Famous Buffalo Hunter Farmed Near This Area*

Many colorful persons were associated in the early days with the Donalda area. Included among the very earliest records is that of Donald Whitford. Although he was noted as a famous buffalo hunter, he did farm in the Battle Lake area. His daughter later married Thomas Chalmers, who also homesteaded in the same area. Both Whitford and his wife are buried in Red Willow cemetery.

Donald Whitford was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1845 and married in 1870 after he had come to Alberta by way of Red River ox cart. He first worked with the Hudson Bay Company as interpreter, later homesteading at Battle Lake, as it was then called. Buffalo were there in great numbers and he was soon to gain his fame as a buffalo hunter in Central Alberta. He used a flint-lock gun. He also had vivid recollections of a band of Blackfeet Indians scalping

a white woman one day as he was travelling along with a band of Indians who were driving oxen. Fort Edmonton was the one and only supply posts in those days. As an interpreter, he could speak five languages and worked at the Hudson Bay posts west of Lacombe and other points, handling furs and interpreting for the Indians.

#### REV. JOHN McDUGAL

He was associated with the early

Protestant ministers, who were among the first white men in this area. The Rev. John McDougal received his support, and he helped in the building of the first McDougal Church in Edmonton. He also knew the Reverend's father, Rev. George McDougal, who perished in a blizzard between Donalda and Lacombe. Later he moved to the Buffalo Lake area, living at the south end on Tail Creek. It was here that his daughter, Mrs. Chalmers, was born. He and his wife raised twelve children, but only Mrs. Chalmers resided at Donalda.

From the age of twenty years, he kept a diary, which is now in the possession of Mrs. Flora Chalmers.

In November of 1839, Flora Whitford married Thomas Chalmers and they moved out to their homestead near Battle Lake, about seven miles from Wetaskiwin. Mrs. Chalmers still recalls living in a log house with a sod roof, and having to move the bed and babies around when it rained and the roof leaked.

#### MUZZLE-LOADER SCARES BLACKFEET

Among her early homestead recollections was the old muzzle-

# Old-Time Settler Recalls Early Days

"Mike" Vikse of Donalda, who pioneered in the General Store business in Donalda, and remained in business continuously for 44 years gives us here a flashback into the past 60 years as he remembers the area of the country in which he lived. He has most capably summarized the many aspects of pioneer life, which is presented in the following article.

All the land in the territory that is now Donalda and district was previous to the turn of the century occupied and used by a small number of ranchers. During the period 1900 to 1910 a large number of

loader her mother used to frighten the Blackfeet. She remembers her mother putting in a pinch of gunpowder, then a piece of rag, then the ball and another piece of rag. Then she took the flint cap out of her pocket, inserted it in its place and the gun was ready to shoot.

She also described another manner of making a better roof than the sod one. The children waded out into the sloughs and pulled the long grasses. Then, by laying it on the roof in layers, sandwiched in between with mud mortar, it made a roof that didn't leak. She also could recollect that it never hailed in Alberta before the turn of the century.

## LAMMERTON POST OFFICE

Lammerton was the nearest post office, and there was also a supply point up on Boss Hill overlooking Buffalo Lake. Indians and a few whites were there at that time, gathering in the winter after hunting on the plains all summer. The cellar holes dug under their log shacks are all that remain as evidence of this gathering place. The water was very high in the lake in those early days, Mrs. Chalmers recalls. Mail wasn't much of a problem in those days, as very few persons ever received any, but she does recall that the Hudson Bay Co. had little supply posts where furs could be gathered, and supplies hauled.

Mrs. Chalmers was eleven years old at the time of the Riel Rebellion. She and her brothers and sisters had been warned by a Stony Indian and they had gone and hidden in the bush while her mother took the muzzle-loader and went out to bluff the Blackfeet. At this time the Blackfeet Indians were deathly afraid of a gun.

## CALGARY - 1890

To this day Mrs. Chalmers has never been out of Alberta. She saw Calgary in 1890, when there was one hotel, a few other buildings and the Mewata Barracks. She did not see it again until 1952 and could hardly believe her eyes at the development that had taken place. As a child she attended a school for the Indians and whites at Battle Lake, and learned to read and write.

immigrants with their settlers effects moved in from the United States and Eastern Canada and took up homesteads, and bought up C.P.R. lands which then sold for \$3.00 per acre. All goods and supplies brought or commodities sold were freighted by wagon to Wetaskiwin or Lacombe and Ponoka. This usually meant four days going and coming back.

A wonderful break came to these settlers in 1905 when a branch line of the C.P.R. was built from Wetaskiwin to Daysland, and another branch line was built from Lacombe through Stettler and points east. Markets and shopping centres were within 25 to 35 miles. A trip to Stettler, Bawlf or Camrose could be made in two days. A limited supply of tobacco, groceries, overalls, etc., could be had from at a few country stores, where there also would be a post office. This would be in such places as Ferry Point, Norbo, Harker, Meeting Creek and Red Willow.

Another great event for our settlers was the building of the Canadian Northern Railway line from Vegreville to Drumheller in 1910-11. As this railroad passed through our district we felt that we were sitting on top of the world, and rightly so, because a townsite was being surveyed on the banks of the beautiful Meeting Creek Valley. The townsite got the name of Donalda from the names of the contractors who built the line, namely, Donald McKenzie and Donald Mann. Stores, places of business, residences, etc., were soon being built and Donalda from then on has been one of the best little villages along the Edmonton-Calgary line. Some of the early businesses established here were Wal-

lace General Store, Foster and Graham Hardware, Haviland Hotel, Max Damberger Livery, Queseth Bros. Machinery, Vikse Bros. General Store, Lawrence Olsen, Harness & Saddle, C. P. Lee, Postmaster, Fred Jones, blacksmith, and many others. These have all sold out the last and final being the Vikse Bros, in March of this year.

The Donalda district is a mixed farming one. The largest income to the district is the growing and marketing of grain, but beef, hogs, poultry and dairying has also played an important part in making our district prosperous. An outstanding thing is the unity existing between the rural and village people. This is shown by the co-operation in any major project. We have a Co-operative Creamery, Locker Plant, Community Centre, Curling Rink and others, and all these ventures have been successful and fully paid for.

Great advancement has also been made in education and school facilities. Our first school was held in a one-room dwelling, and now we have a modern five-room school built and paid for.

The spiritual needs of the district have been looked after by the United Church and the Lutheran Churches. The present United Church was originally organized by the Methodist Church. Services in early years were held in homes and school houses. Sharon Lutheran Church was the first church built in Donalda. Bethany Lutheran Church, a few miles north of Donalda was built around 1910. This was wrecked by a tornado in 1914, but the people did not lose heart, and rebuilt their church.

Progress has removed the hitching posts in front of the stores. The coming of the motor car has brought an even greater intermingling of rural and urban folk, and it is not uncommon on a Saturday night in Donalda to have so many cars that there are no parking spaces left. This is progress!



Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and their four sons shortly after they arrived in the Donalda area. Interesting object in the picture is the old dinner bell hanging over the door.

# Kids Learn Pioneering

Campbell County, South Dakota, produced one of Donalda's earliest pioneers when Randolph Ole Rasmussen came to Ponoka in May of 1900 with his parents, riding in an immigrant car. His father chose a homestead about one and a half miles from Edberg where they stayed for two years, moving to the Donalda area in 1902. Randolph was a youth of twelve years.

In 1902, when Pete Aursness at Edberg sold a couple loads of feed oats to Whitehorn and Fisher, nine miles southeast of where Donalda now stands, there was only one settler between, and he lived six miles north-east of Donalda.

Randolph, quite matured for his twelve years, was elected to bundle up in a borrowed bear skin coat and drive one team while Mr. Aursness drove the other, to deliver these oats.

It was in the winter season and the temperature hung at twenty degrees below zero. The trip took from sun-up to sun-down to reach this one and only "in-between" settler's place. He fed horses, then man and boy started across what is now known as the "hardpan". There wasn't a trace of a shrub here, and with a foot of new loose snow it had the appearance of a frozen-over lake stretching as far as they could see. By eleven o'clock in the evening young Randolph's team played out. They unhitched them and left the load, and put this team on ahead of the other load, with Randolph riding one and trying to keep going in the right direction. The fear of being lost began to creep over them, and they knew if they became lost they would soon freeze. There was nothing to make a fire of. But then they saw a faint sleigh track and guided the horses along it. By one o'clock in the morning they saw with relief the lights of the Whitehorn and Fisher place. The reason these people were still up was because a homesteader farther on south had lost his home and a small daughter's life in a fire which had burned their home earlier in the same evening.

Going back to the early emigrant days, Mr. Rasmussen tells of when as a nine year old boy, he and his father unloaded their effects and stock at Ponoka in 1900. While his dad moved their stuff by wagon to where Edberg now stands, he had to stay in Ponoka and herd the twelve milk cows. It was the spring of the year and they were calving, so he had a grave responsibility. There was nothing but Indians around Ponoka then, and he mingled with them quite a lot. He remembers vividly the traditional deer skin clothes they wore, trimmed with beads and feathers. One old Indian had a store in a tent, and in the evening he helped the old Indian put canned goods up on his shelves, thus



RANDOLPH OLE RASMUSSEN

earning a good supply of candy. Just this past year an Indian by the name of "Thom" was around Donalda cutting brush, and while talking to Mr. Rasmussen one day mentioned that his father was the man who had at one time a store in a tent at Ponoka. He mentioned the year 1900, the year that Mr. Rasmussen, as a young lad, was herding cows in the same place.

During the hard winter of '06 and '07, he tells of catching coyotes by chasing them on homemade skis, or horseback, and clubbing them to death. The snow was so deep and long the marauders didn't have a chance.

Finally, when he came of age, he filed on a homestead, the northwest quarter of 20-42-17, and settled down to be a farmer. Nearest supply points in those early days was Norbo, where a man named Bjorge, ran the store, or at Stettler, some distance to the south. Later in 1914 he sawed rough lumber for \$8.00 a thousand.

Sitting Bull, the great Sioux

Indian chief in South Dakota, was in a way responsible for his parents moving to Alberta. As told to him by his parents, Sitting Bull and his warriors went on the warpath when he was about 4 months old. His family was forced to flee 5 miles to a nearby town, where they were under the protection of the American soldiers. In the hurry, he was not bundled up very well and as it was a cold November day, he caught a very bad cold. He had the cold a long time and it left him with a chronic catarrhal condition which still remains with him. His mother always told him that this was old Sitting Bull's fault. A short time later Sitting Bull was killed, peace restored, and they were able to go back to their home. His father also told him of ploughing in the field one day and having Sitting Bull ride up in a buggy and demand "tobac", making motions that it was for his pipe. Evidently not his peacepipe, judging from the experience that followed this episode.



Log barn built on the Pickring homestead in 1902; the rear of the building is built of logs and the front of slabs. This was located in the Westington district, twelve miles southeast of Donalda, and the first summer on this homestead the family survived on fish caught in Meeting Creek with a fish trap. The Pickring's were parents of Mrs. Jesse Jones.

## PICKRING HOMESTEAD . . . 1902



### Leave Oklahoma Strip

Both Jesse Jones and his wife, the former Minnie Pickring, were Oklahoma and Kansas immigrants whose families arrived the same year, 1902. Mrs. Jones' family journeyed from Kansas to Oklahoma in 1894 to participate in the rush to the newly-opened Oklahoma Strip. She was 8 years old then but remembers the line-up on horseback waiting for the sheriff to fire his pistol to indicate the race was on. Her father was successful in staking a claim and settled down for a few years in that part of the continent. Jesse Jones remembers clearly the trip by wagon from Wisconsin to the central plains of Kansas when he was a young boy. The trip was made in a train of five prairie schooners and took all summer to complete. The couple were married two years after their families had come to the Donalda area. Mr. Pickring settled with his family in the Wessington district about twelve miles southeast of the present site of Donalda. Having arrived at Ponoka her father and family drove the 68 miles to the homestead, encountering mosquitoes that were so thick that the horses lay down and refused to budge. That summer the family survived on fish, caught in Meeting Creek with a fish trap. The remaining fish that were not consumed were salted and canned. A few ranchers that had already settled there were not too pleased to see the homesteaders come, relates Mrs. Jones.

#### SETTLERS CARRIED MAIL

Lacombe was the nearest post office for many years. With the greatness of the distance the homesteaders all took turns bringing out the mail. About five miles southeast of present Red Willow was the store known as Pruden's

Store, then called Old Red Willow. Everything was hauled from Lacombe by wagon. Farmer neighbors included Jesse Jones (whom she married in 1904), Bert Averill, Dr. Creighton, who later went to Stettler, and Dan Bernard.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones both recall the day of their wedding on Aug. 23rd, 1904. Mr. Jones hitched up a single horse to his rubber tired top buggy and took Miss Minnie Pickring and started out for Wetaskiwin. They drove to within 11 miles of Wetaskiwin to friends by the name of Mead. Here they stayed overnight, continuing on in the morning. The roads, as Mrs. Jones recalls, were all prairie trails, but were well travelled and easy to follow. The total distance travelled was 70 miles. Walter McIntyre, Miss Pickring's brother-in-law, had driven in with a team and wagon the previous day to haul out such furniture as they would purchase. The day before on the trip in, Jesse had trouble with the buggy, a chuck hole in the trail had broken a spring, but the bridegroom put a pole into the spring to hold it and continued the trip. While the couple were being married the buggy was repaired. The Jones relate that Chris Langbell of Langbell's Studio of Camrose was a young man then working in a studio in Wetaskiwin, and he took their wedding picture. Fifty years later in Aug. of 1954 he took their Golden Anniversary picture at his studio in Camrose.

### MESSENGER BOY TO FARMER

Iowa-raised Joseph Wesley Clement, was another settler who arrived near Donalda as early as

1902. In his early years in the United States he had served as a messenger boy for the railroad, succumbing early to the pioneer urge, he came to the Donalda area when he was barely over the age to file on a homestead. Harker was the first post office, later they picked up mail and supplies at Monnville, which was hauled from Lacombe. He settled in the area where his neighbors were Henry Vincent and the Baxter families. But the Baxter families went back to the States a number of years ago.

Mr. Clement recalls most vividly the day he drove to Stettler in 1912 where he purchased a brand new Model T Ford car. Not knowing as yet how to drive the car he took a few short instructions from the dealer and started on his way home. Part way home there was a small bridge over Willow Creek, and as he was nearing this creek he met two friends from Donalda who were on horseback. As he passed he waved a friendly greeting to them, and his car got out of control, missed the bridge, and went right into the creek!

#### LARIATS SAVE CAR

The two men went to his aid at once and as luck would have it, they had their lariats along. They lassoed Mr. Clement and pulled him to shore thus saving his life. By using the horses to pull, they also managed to pull the car out of the creek.

The winter of 1902 presented a variety of hardships for the new pioneer. It was a tough time for all settlers and he lived for the winter on rabbits and rosebuds, the latter which were cooked into a sort of jam. There being no fences anywhere, the homesteaders tethered their horses to the nearest trees. One night a band of Indians passed through his farm and stole all his horses.

# 3rd 'Stead for Pioneer



HAT YEAR of 1903 saw a large influx of settlers into the Donalda area, with Lars Larson Goransrud and his family coming up from South Dakota, William Edward Lee coming from Iowa with his parents, the Vikse family coming from the Dakotas, and Thomas Ole Solmonson, also from Iowa.

L. L. Goransrud was a man of thirty-nine years of age when he came to Alberta, his pioneering adventure had occurred when he left Norway in 1878 with his mother and nine brothers and sisters for the New World. His early boyhood days were full of adventure, including being captured by a band of Indians and escaping during the confusion of a prairie fire. The family had settled near Canton, South Dakota and he also had several brushes with Chief Sitting Bull, although the Indian was in a friendlier mood than in later years when the Jesse Jones' family encountered the warrior.

Some of the families' experiences in the Dakotas are most worthy of relating here, for to his family in particular, the pioneer days occurred about twenty years before this part of the country was settled. By the time Lars arrived in the Donalda area, as a family man himself, he had weathered the worst storms of life and Canada was only another frontier.

Retracing the steps of Lars Goransrud's family over seventy years ago reads like a well-mellowed page of history. The territory was the Dakota's, but the experiences were not unlike those of all pioneers. Here we quote sections from the reminiscences of Lars.

\* \* \*

## MOTHER TAKES OUT HOME-STEAD

Lars Larson Goransrud's mother had brought her family out to the New World and proceeded to stake a homestead for herself and her children. Here he relates the early days of his mother's homestead.)

\* \* \*

"We stayed with an uncle near Canton, South Dakota for a while and then mother decided to find a homestead. It so happened that uncle had a pre-emption claim 80 miles farther west where the railroad was staked out and built in 1879. Mother now filed homestead on her brother's claim, where there was 5 acres of wheatland broken, and we moved out there and seeded this patch to wheat the next spring. Mother had a large cover made for her wagon which we moved out in with provisions to last us the greater part of the summer.

We now made a dugout for a living house and a similar hole in the sidehill for a stable, and with five tons of hay cut and put up for our cow we were ready for the winter. This was the season of

1879-80 and the same year as the town of Mitchell was started. Settlers and speculators came by the hundreds and buildings rose as if by magic. My sisters got work at a hotel and I worked there too for some time. Then 3 of us brothers started to herd cattle. We kept on with this for the seasons, 1880, 1881 and 1882 and had several hundred to care for.

## MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Then I worked as farm hand for some years and went some 90 miles out to the Missouri River and took land in the neighborhood of Numedal with acquaintances from the Old Country (one of his neighbors was Ole Randolph Rasmussen and his family who later settled near Donalada). It was also here that he met his future wife, marrying her in 1886.

There was an Indian camp down by the Missouri River and their chief was Sitting Bull. He often visited us and shook hands and said, "how kola" which was his way of saying "god dag". Sitting Bull's band went on the warpath and we had to flee to Eureka and stay there until the battle was over and he was killed.

## CANADA FEVER

I farmed for a few years and then the railroad was surveyed across by land and a new town, Pollock, was started near our farm. I now tried a new venture, starting a grocery store, which I ran with varying success until 1902. Then many neighbors got the "Canada Fever" and I disposed of my business and in the spring of 1903 a party of us went to Alberta, Canada. We found our old friends there already and each got a piece of homestead land. Then I went back to South Dakota and sold my farm near Pollock for \$800 and my house for \$600. We had so many miles to go that we hired a small train to take our stuff and

our families to our new home, near Edberg. My family now consisted of a wife and five children. A small shanty was put up first and then I hired a man with me to cut the straight fir logs growing on by own land for the new house.

The logs were long enough to make the building 16 by 24 feet by 12 feet high. We got the house ready and moved in by December 1, 1903. This was the third time I had built on new land, and will be very likely the last. We got a school district organized (Spruce Coulee) and the schoohouse built near my home, and I have been on the board as treasurer since 1905.

## SIX FAMILIES COME FROM THE DAKOTAS

When Mr. Goransrud arrived in this part of the country friends by the name of Halvor Thorkelson whom he had known in the Dakotas lived two miles north and west of Edberg, in a dugout in the hillside. They took in Mrs. Goransrud and children while he built a shack on the homestead. Six families in all had come here in an immigrant train together as far as Wetaskiwin.

Early mail was picked up at Wessington, south-east of Donalda, which was hauled from Lacombe. A little store three miles east of the present town of Meeting Creek, run by Hans Elefson, supplied the settlers with the necessities of life. Touching back on his earlier years, besides recalling incidents of meeting Sitting Bull, he had seen Jesse James on many occasions.

Today, the son of Lars, also named Lars (Lars Larson), resides on the farm two miles south-east of Donalda. He was but a tender youth of five years of age when he came to the area with his parents.

He also recalls the early settlers' picnics. They were always held on July 4th as most of the settlers had come up from the United States. . .



The country in the first years soon became dotted all over the wooded areas with small sawmills set up by the settlers.

This scene was taken at the Spruce Coulee sawmill that was located near Donalda.



This interior view of the Vikse store should bring many nostalgic memories to the residents of that area. In the foreground are the wooden pickle kegs, five-pound "Silverleaf" lard pails. Background items include Gingerbread Molasses with signs reading, "Got Any Tanglefoot Today?", Bat Chewing Tobacco, and McCormick's Cream Sodas. Shoes and dry-good items were carried, as well as grocery lines.

## Dad, 6 Sons, Strike Out

**J**ACOB Torkerson Vikse was born in Nebraska in 1850 and came to North Dakota in 1886. He stayed there a short time before going to Pollock, South Dakota to homestead. His six sons were born there and he remained farming in that area for about 17 years. But like a lot of Dakota settlers the lure of the great unknown took hold and in 1903 he headed up to the Canadian Northwest.

He took out his second homestead on the northeast quarter of section 2-43-18, near where Donalda originated. Five of his sons are still residing in the Donalda area, August and Mike are retired and living in Donalda; Rosenberg, Alfred and Conrad are still on farms.

### SHOEMAKER

J. T. Vikse was a shoemaker by trade in Norway but gave that up until the period of his retirement in Donalda when he obliged the residents by giving them a hand, without charge. Other families came from S. Dakota on the same immigrant train as the Vikses and some became farm neighbors, including Jacob Stolee (his father-in-law), Rosenberg Stolee, Ole Hagen, the Aspedokken family and the Larson family.

Early recollections of the sons include the hauling of oats to Wetaskiwin by team and wagon in 1904 which was a week long trip, and receiving 28 cents a bushel at the destination. The grain in those days had to be in canvas bags for

hauling such a lengthy distance. He, too, early succumbed to the practical necessity of using oxen instead of horses for his heavy work and soon found out that a horse collar upside down, just fitted the animals! From 1905 until 1911 the Vikses hauled their grain to Bawlf, and then an elevator was built at Donalda.

The Lutheran Church was always a foremost interest in his life, and he was one of the men who helped to organize and build the Camrose Lutheran College, serving on the board as well. His son Alfred, continues to act in that capacity today.

### FIVE SONS REMAINED

He also played an important part in the organization and building of the Bethany Lutheran Church, 6 miles north of Donalda, where it still stands today. His eldest son, Torkel left this country during the first war when he served in the Canadian Army. Shortly after the war he entered the ministry and is now a minister in Minnesota. Besides six sons, the Vikses have one daughter, Mrs. Leonard Bergum, who is presently teaching school at Wetaskiwin.

### FIRST MARRIAGE IN NEW CHURCH

Alfred purchased his father's homestead, and he and his wife have the honor of being the first couple to be married in the new Parkland Lutheran Church ten miles east of Camrose. In fact, their wedding was the first service of any kind to be held in this

newly erected building. One of his responsibilities as a young lad was digging coal out of the coulee banks and hauling it to the threshing machine during harvest. He saw his first car in 1910 at Mrs. Haugstad's funeral when Harry and Lou Wallace arrived in style. The commotion caused several runaways among the frightened horses. Although he doesn't remember the model, he does remember the carbide side lights and chain drive.

### MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alfred is quite a gardener as well as a successful farmer, and today has an orchard with about 50 fruit trees including crabapples, apples, plums, etc. His civic interests are many and as well as his active church participation he has been a municipal councillor for 15 years, 3 years with the M.D. of Haig, and the remainder with Camrose. He has served on the board of the Camrose Lutheran College since 1932, the Donalda Co-Operative Creamery Board since its organization in 1940, the Locker Plant Board since organization in 1947, the Settler Hospital Board for 7 years, is one of the elders in the Bethany Church Board, a member of the Alberta East Central Health Unit, and secretary of the Mutual Telephone company since formation in 1934.

August and Michael Vikse also have had an outstanding record for they became merchants at a very early age, serving for over 44 years the people of Donalda and district. A more complete account of these brothers will be found in the story and growth of the Village of Donalda.

# Learn Woodcraft Early

Ole Jacobson and his family arrived in Wetaskiwin in 1905 and settled in the Donalda area in 1906. While unloading their possessions in Wetaskiwin, Ole's misplaced sympathy for a horse caused him to lose one of his team from the ill effects of drinking too much cold water. After he got out to his homestead, situated on the northwest quarter of 16-42-18, he borrowed an ox from Ole Stanvik and with his mismatched team turned his first furrows with a walking plow. His daughter Betty, later married to Peter Nordvie, and still living in the district, mentions a few homestead recollections when she was a young girl.

In particular she recalls a homesteader by the name of Alfred Queseth, who was living three miles from her father's homestead, contracted pneumonia and died. There were no undertakers available so her mother went over and prepared the body for burial. Einar Queseth went to Bawlf by team to get the casket, leaving the body unattended in the house. A prairie fire got started and burned toward the house, which threatened to make a pyre of the buildings. Neighbors rallied around and spent a frantic time putting the fire out.

Children of the early homesteaders, says Mrs. Nordvie, would

lay sticks horizontal or vertically across the buffalo paths so they would know which paths led toward home. She also remembers that there were very few trees here in the early days. Her mother assisted Mrs. Alvenus Sorrenson who practised midwifery among the homesteaders' farms. She also recalls accompanying her parents across the coulee many times in 1911 to watch the laying of the steel when the C.N.R. was going through.

The incident of her wedding to Peter Nordvie was quite a day, with her mother baking 25 cakes for the occasion and her father killing a steer to feed the guests. Rev. Kleve drove the 30 miles from Bawlf to marry the couple. Long tables were set up under the trees as the house was too small to accomodate such a crowd. Three buggy loads of people had come from Pleasington, a little district north of Forestburg where the groom lived. Late in the afternoon a shower came up, settling into a week's rain. A large number of guests were prevented from going home, and the bride and groom from crossing the coulee and Meeting Creek to get to Donalda where they had planned to take the train to Edmonton for a honeymoon.

The people from Pleasington as well as the bride and groom were rained in there all the week, and needless to say by that time there wasn't much left of the beef.

Fred Ullman and his wife were Iowa people, coming from Clayton County to Stettler and then Donalda in the spring of 1906. They settled on the northwest quarter of 30-41-18 about one mile south of where Donalda later sprang up. The couple came to Canada in a settlers' car, bringing up two brood sows from Iowa. However, he found out just before he got to the boundary line that Canada wouldn't let the hogs in because of a ban to prevent the spread of cholera. He managed to swap the two sows for a fairly good shotgun. He also had a team of horses and a heifer along. The first night of arrival in Stettler he unloaded these three head of stock, tied up the horses and let the heifer run loose in the corral. One other immigrant unloaded a big herd of cattle and the rest left theirs on the train. During the night some cattle rustlers came and drove away all the unloaded stock, so of course his heifer was gone. He borrowed a saddle horse and rode for four days but could find no trace of the heifer or the rustlers. So now all he had of his stock was the two horses. Later he borrowed oxen and managed to get started in farming. Like many other settlers he had landed in

## THE ELLEFSON STORE — 1902



This is the old Hans Ellefson store as it stood in 1902 when the business was established near Meeting Creek. The gathering is the Ladies' Aid, who were given the use of the store building for their meetings. At this time O. M. Vikse (who later bought the store and moved it to Donalda) was still a very young boy on his father's homestead in Pollock, South Dakota. The low-roofed addition to the store served as living quarters, with Mr. Ellefson building another addition a few years later to the opposite side. (The present A. & E. Groceteria is the old Ellefson store, operated by the Vikse brothers for over 42 years and sold this spring to two Donalda boys).



Spruce Coulee lumber was hauled for settlers by men like Max Damberger, who had a livery and dray business in Donalda.

## Teacher Joins Trekkers

William Edward Lee was a schoolteacher in Iowa, giving that up in 1903 to join the immigrant line to Canada. He took out a homestead on the north-west quarter of 28-41-19 where he remembers that the Indians lived in log shacks around him, south and west of Donalda. Chalmers and Whitford were two common names and descendants of these Indian families are still in this area. As soon as he had filed on his homestead and built his shack his father came out and homesteaded an adjoining quarter. Then the pair found out that a son could live with his father while he proved up, but a father could not live with a son while he proved up. This caused no end of misery for the two as they had to move the first shack over onto the father's quarter so the son could live with the father. The nearest post office for the Lee men was Lammerton, mail coming from Lacombe by wagon.

Young Ed Lee served as secretary of the Buena Vista School Board for 29 years and was a councillor for the Lakeside Municipality, serving three terms. He remembers well in 1911 when the school taxes were \$8.00 per quarter. In 1920 the taxes had risen to \$35.00. He had joined the I.O.O.F. Lodge while he was still in Iowa and remained an honorary member of the Donalda lodge. He also made several trips to Portland, Oregon to attend re-unions of the Spanish-American War Veterans.

Stettler with only a few pennies in his pocket.

For a while he lived in a tent on his homestead while he was building his house, hauling rough lumber from the sawmill 14 miles east. He built a two-storey four-room house which was quite a house in those days. It still stands where it was built, one and a half miles south of Donalda, and Mr. and Mrs. Alf Rider live in it at the present time.

His daughter, Marjorie, (Mrs. John Heath) has been much in the news in the past years. She married Professor Heath, associated with the English Department of the University of Alberta. He was killed in action in Korea. She is now in the Educational Department of the Alcoholics Foundation, and in 1952 the UN sent her to Korea where she was the first or only white woman at that time.

In 1898 Mr. Lee enlisted to serve his country in the Spanish-American war, in the Oregon Infantry Regiment. His last re-union trip to Portland was in 1945. He spent a year in service in the Phillipines where he contracted malaria, a disease from which he suffered many recurrences during his lifetime. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are still living on the homestead.

### Rural Mail Carrier

Thomas Ole Solmonson came from Iowa in 1903 on an immigrant train, taking out a homestead near Donalda. Besides being a farmer, he was also a well driller and mail carrier. The nearest post office then was Norbo. He and Rosenberg Stolee broke oxen to work. As a mail carrier he carried the rural mail, using mules on a buggy or sleigh. Then he went water-well drilling and was fortunate enough to drill a number of very good wells, some of which are still in good use today. Later on in life he again took the rural mail carrier job, with his son, Walter, carrying on the route after Mr. Solmonson passed away in 1947. His early neighbors on the farm were the Vikses, Stolees and Larsons.

Homesteading on the present townsite of Donalda was Ontario-born Robert Wallace, whose parents had died and left him an orphan at the age of 12 years. He came to this district in 1906 by horse and wagon. Being a carpenter, his trade came in useful to himself and other settlers during those early years.

## Yorkshire Horsemanship

Donaldada saw a number of very interesting persons pass through their area, one of them being Butler Throssel, a Yorkshire-born horse fancier, who settled at Sheffield, Iowa, and made quite a name for himself in the equine world. He had a brother, William, who had homesteaded near Dried Meat Lake and came out West with his family in 1906 to visit this brother. He was accompanied by his daughter, Bertha Belle Throssel, who returned to this country with her husband and settled at Donaldada.

Butler was an importer of both draft and pacing horses, many of whose progeny can be found in the Donaldada area. He regularly toured the area from Regina, through Saskatchewan and Alberta, selling his horses. Trotters and pacers were his specialty and he was well known in the Sheffield area for his famous Fitzimmons. A daughter of this horse was bred to Dan Patch. Butler himself had been left a cripple from Infantile Paralysis, but it didn't hamper him much in his travels.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S PLAYMATE

As a child, his mother had played with Queen Victoria, and a snap of the two of them together was passed on to his family and to his daughter, who still resides in Donaldada. Mrs. Butler Throssel came to Canada to visit her daughter after she moved here, took ill and died.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bailey (Bertha) came to the Donaldada area in 1912 and purchased land four miles northeast of Donaldada. One of her first neighbors was Mrs. Ole Jacobson, and the two ladies went berry-picking together, although neither one could speak the other's tongue.

### \$36.00 TRIP

Mrs. Bailey has in her possession a copy of the Sheffield (Iowa) Press dated August 29th, 1912, where the entire front page is given over to announcing the wonderful farmland available in Canada. The trip was based on less than a cent a mile excursion with total fare including railroad meals and berth from Sheffield to Alberta or Saskatchewan for only \$36.00. Mrs. Bailey and her husband came up on one of these trains, as did many of the persons from Iowa who migrated to this section of the country.

## Red Willow P.O. Busy

Another large influx of settlers to the Donaldada area took place in 1906 with a number of the settlers coming up through Stettler, from the southern part of the province.

Hedley Wallace McKay was a "Bluenose" from Prince Edward Island who arrived at Nanton, Alberta by way of the Harvester's

Excursion from P.E.I. in the fall of 1905. He made his way to Stettler, arriving in the fall of 1906 when the snow was 3 feet deep and getting deeper. He remembers the intense cold with the mercury dropping to 30 or 40 degrees below zero for as long as six weeks at a time. However, he survived the hard winter and took out a homestead in the Donalda area that year, located on the northwest quarter of 22-41-18. His nearest post office and supply store those first years were Old Red Willow at Prudden's Store and Post Office. Hillberry's Hardware and Dr. Creighton were already established there. He had received some lumber yard and bookkeeping experience while at Nanton, and continued as a sideline in this capacity at Hardisty in the early days. He was also a hardware clerk and bookkeeper at the O. H. Anderson Hardware which was later established at Donalda.

#### COAL PLENTIFUL

Heat was no great problem for settlers around this area for many did as Mr. McKay did, dug coal out of the coulees before the mines were established. One recollection of Mr. McKay's concerning the digging of coal was the Methodist layman by the name of Fleming, who dug coal during the week for the people and preached the sermon on Sunday.

One well known homesteader, Ralph Elmer Smith, came to the Donalda district in 1906 from the Missouri area, settling on the southwest of 6-43-17. Although he farmed most of his life he was known throughout the district in sporting circles, for he won considerable renown for himself as a baseball player. He also opened a coal mine in 1910 and did coal mining and land breaking for a number of years. At that time his neighbors were the LaBoucaines, J. Vikses, B. J. Stolee and Bert Russel. His grandfather, Emery Smith, used to freight with horses between Omaha and Denver before the coming of the steel. He had to fight Indians and participated in the battle of Jewelsburg at the time that Colorado was completely burned up. Indian massacres were a common occurrence then.

#### ONE ARMED BALL PLAYER

Two years after he took out his homestead he became actively associated in baseball, joining the Daysland team as pitcher, also playing in Central Alberta. He played six years with various teams in Central Alberta as pitcher and he was also a heavy batter. Unique in the baseball field, Ralph Smith was a one-armed man. He had lost his left arm in a shooting accident in the States at the age of 17 years.

He wore a hook on his arm and with the aid of a ring screwed into the bat was able to carry on normally. When he delivered the ball from the plate he held the ball in his hook, transferring it to his throwing arm for the pitch.

# Board Seats on Trains



TON Lauritz Pederson was a true immigrant, for he came direct from Norway with his family in 1907 and settled near Donalda on a homestead located on the northeast quarter of 6-42-17. He owned three oxen and hauled his grain to Stettler with them as well as using them for farming. Later he traded them for three horses. His family attended school at Spruce Coulee under "Dad" Winters. This school was the first school built in the area around Donalda, and was erected in 1904. It was also used as a Lutheran Church.

His daughter Gudrun, later married Ole Rasmussen who remained in the district on her husband's farm. Mrs. Rasmussen helped to revive the Spruce Coulee Ladies' Aid and was president for many years. The first meeting was held in her home.

Edward Ellsworth Heater came with his family to Clyde in the early years and later coming to Donalda in 1906 and settled on a homestead on the northeast quarter of 32-41-17. Four trips from Wetaskiwin with teams and wagons were required to haul his supplies, and the weather zoomed down to 60 degrees below on one of these trips. His homestead was located about five miles west and one mile south of where the townsite of Donalda sprang up.

#### WHITE BRUSH POST OFFICE

The trip out from Ohio in the immigrant train was one of vivid memories for Mr. Heater and his wife for there were only boards to sit on in the train. The family travelled further on from Wetaskiwin to settle. Ten miles west of Donalda was the White Brush Post Office where they got their mail. Later a post office was established.

When the municipal district of Lakeside was formed he was elected as one of the first councillors, and was also instru-

mental in helping to organize the Buena Vista School District serving on the first school board and later for many years as a trustee. The couple celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in March of 1950.

#### HOMESTEADS FILLED UP FAST

In 1898 a man by the name of Armstrong travelled through Iowa lecturing on the great possibilities for homesteaders in Alberta. So in 1899 John Alexander Brewster succumbed to the lure and hopped on an excursion train taking advantage of the cent-a-mile fare, heading for a jumping-off place called Edmonton. He went out near Fort Saskatchewan by team and bought a quarter section of raw land for around three dollars an acre.

He returned to Iowa and was married in 1904, then returned to Canada in 1907 on an excursion train to Donalda where he filed on a homestead on the northwest quarter of 41-19. He had driven out from Wetaskiwin a distance of 60 miles with team and wagons. During the trip he shot muskrats which were plentiful in those days. When he had come to this area to see about homestead land he drove by team from Wetaskiwin, on down around the east side of Buffalo Lake and on an old wagon trail that led through Stettler. Only three homesteads were left in the Donalda area then, so he took what he thought to be the best. Bill Gray, land agent, took him to Stettler to file on the land.

#### HARKER

Harker Post Office was then Monville on Section 6 towards Buffalo Lake. Supplies were hauled from Wetaskiwin to a point located two miles west and 3 miles south of where Donalda now stands although Stettler was still the closest supply point. Homestead neighbors included such men as Deck Harker, Wm. Klemme Sr., Wm. Jones, S. P. Lee, Ed. Lee, Ed. Heater, Jake and Frank Zuehlke.



THE LIVERY BARN OF MAX DAMBERGER

# 1902 Store Still Going

As the railroad came through Donalda about five or six years later than some of the other areas, the townsite did not get a very early start. However, long before Donalda came into being, the people of that area were served by a store. O. M. "Mike" Vikse had farmed with his father for a while and then in 1910 decided to become a merchant. He went to work at Ellefson's store which was situated six and a half miles north and three and a half miles west of the townsite of Donalda and had been started in 1902 by the Ellefson's. The next year his brother August joined him and together they purchased the business and operated it for a year at that spot before moving it to Donalda.

Supplies for the store were hauled by team from Bawlf to the country store, trading in butter and eggs. An old store receipt of 1903 is in Mr. Vikse's possession showing the date of Dec. 10, 1903, dated Meeting Creek with the store being called Olstad and Ellefson, General Merchants. Purchaser is H. Johnson and the bill includes three purchases of tobacco, 50¢; apples, 25¢; and currants, 25¢. Payment for the dollar purchase was 10 'rat skins. The Vikse's cannot recall Hans Ellefson's partner Olstad as the partnership must have been dissolved early.

The old Ellefson store as it sat in 1902 was a meeting spot for the L.A. In 1903 Ellefson put a front on the building and added another room to the right hand side of the building. When the Vikse Bros. purchased the store in 1910 the store was the main center building while additions had been added on either side.

Business was always good, ex-

cept in the hungry "30's" and the two brothers were noted for their good heartedness when times got tough. The business has moved three times, once in 1912 when the building was moved to Donalda, shuffled around several times then to its present site in 1916. Business hours were all the time, including Sundays, and the store was lighted first by coal oil lamps, then by gas under pressure which came from a drum on the outside of the building and piped in. This store was finally sold on March 9, 1955, to Allan Skeinhof and Eric Hjorth and the two Vikse brothers retired in Donalda after being in business for 45 years, of which they were owners all those years except the first two.

## Service Was Outstanding

Mr. and Mrs. Carston Otteson came to Donalda in 1911. Mrs. Otteson was the daughter of John Edstrom who had come to the Edberg district in 1900 and ran a post office at that point for many years.

Mr. Otteson had a real estate business in Donalda in 1911 and also served as notary public. After he passed away in 1913, Mrs. Otteson was made postmistress and two years later took over the telephone exchange as well. She remembers that in 1911 Jesse Graham and Foster had a hardware store and Dr. Bond was the first doctor in Donalda.

Mrs. Otteson retired as post-

mistress in 1950 after serving consistently since 1913. Hundreds of local people attended a picnic in her honor held at the sports grounds on Victoria Day, 1950. She has a 25 year postal service pin and an engraved scroll presented to her on her retirement, showing the acknowledgement of 34 years of service by the postal department. She also has a letter of commendation from the telephone company in recognition of 33 years and 11 months of continuous service. This is indeed an outstanding record for any one person to achieve in a lifetime.

In addition to her duties she was the first Noble Grand of the Rebekah Valley View Lodge, No. 108, which was organized in 1928.

Her post office and telephone exchange burned down in 1927 and she lost all her possessions in this fire. She remained undaunted however and rebuilt again that year. Although Mrs. Otteson retired in 1950, she still resides at Donalda, and is active in many circles.

## Livery Barn Was Help

Max Damberger was perhaps the first established businessman in Donalda, and his business, a livery and draying barn, necessarily went downhill after the influx of motor cars. He built his first livery barn on the present townsite in 1908. He recalls that it took him two and a half hours to drive the winding trails to Stettler with a driving team and buggy. A round trip could be made in a day with a load of freight. He also hauled water from his well to early Donalda



The Vikse brothers moved the Ellefson store to Donalda after they became the owners. The hitching post gang seen above, lounging, and sitting, were perhaps unaware that one era was about to draw to a close and another era begin.

# Named For CN Official

Donaldda is a Canadian Northern Railway town, situated on the western bank of the colorful Meeting Creek Valley, approximately forty-four miles south-east of Camrose. The townsite was purchased around 1910 by the company, and the railroad came through in 1911. Named for Sir Donald A. Mann, a CNR officials, the name of Wallace was once suggested, for Harry Wallace, one of the first settlers.

In 1911, when the townsite was established, a group of three men (Wallace, Bell and Haviland) formed the nucleus of a civic organization to get the town off to a start. Harry Wallace was the first secretary, with Cullin Murphey taking over until 1913 when O. M. "Mike" Vikse became secretary.

First early settlers included Harry Wallace, Dan Hines, a man by the name of Harker, I. N. Haviland, James Imeson, Leslie Bell, Lawrence Olson, Max Damberger, and O. M. and B. A. Vikse. The Vikse brothers came from their father's farm, north and east of Donaldda. The community was well establish-

residents for twenty five cents a barrel. It was very wet in those first years. Mr. Damberger recalls, in 1912 he hauled wheat from one and a half miles south of town for Fred Ullman that averaged 47 bushels to the acre. He was actually in partnership with Joe Paulus until 1910 and the two men carried on a brisk business driving travellers to surrounding towns, freighting lumber, hardware and groceries from Stettler before the railroad came through. His building was situated across the street from where the present creamery bulding now stands.

## WELL DIGGING

The men used to charge by the hundredweight so as to make at least \$6.00 a day. The charge for the livery team was the same. After the railroad came through Max Damberger unloaded car lots of lumber, flour, brick, etc., for \$12.00 per carload. He also dug cellars and wells, including the present town well. Wells were dug from 16 to 40 feet in one day, and one well they dug spouted water so fast they got out leaving the pick and shovel behind. This well was an exceptionally good one and supplied all the steam engines in the country.

Equipment for his livery included two driving teams, two heavy work teams, two driving buggies and one democrat, as well as wagons. The business was sold to Fred Hilker, now of Stettler, for a Ford garage and the building burned down in 1924. Haviland, who built the hotel, built himself a barn just south of the business of Damberger's and purchased his equipment and horses to use to drive his patrons consisting of travelling salesmen, cattle buyers, etc.

ed in 1911 and was officially incorporated as a village in 1912. Only survivors of this original group are the Vikse brothers and Cullin Murphey, who resides in the Stettler Convalescent Hospital.

## SLOUGH BOTTOM

The actual choice of a townsite was nothing but a big headache for the first governing body, for main street was a big slough. As sidewalks were built, they had to be raised over the mucky area. From year to year, dirt has been hauled into this slough bottom so that all evidences of it have been mostly covered up. The early business men found that they had to build their own sidewalks, spending their own money and labor.

Included among the first early businesses were: a livery barn, run by Max Damberger and Pollis; a hardware, owned by Foster; a grain elevator, owned by Imeson that was built in 1911 and is presently owned by the U.G.G.; a machine shop, owned by Oscar Olson; a Frosst & Wood machine business, run by Olaf Queseth; a blacksmith shop, run by Fred Jones, part of which stands today and is used as a coal shed, and a meat market, run by Harry Wallace.

## CHURCHES

The First Lutheran Church was under the ministrership of Pastor Frayen, and the United Church, which was built in 1916, was formerly a Methodist congregation that held services in the school. Rev. Ratcliff was the first Methodist minister, and money was raised for the building by donations and auctions. A layman by the name of Kinch was the first to hold services in the town. He lived in a bunk house where the United Church now stands, for that land seemingly had already been set aside for church property.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

During the latter part of 1911 after the railroad had come through a group of citizens got together and organized the Donaldda School District. The first classroom was an old house known as the "Lawrence Olson house", which stood on the land just behind the present Donaldda Hardware. This building was later purchased and moved to a new location, where it was used as a teacherage.

The first teacher was Ernest "Dad" Winters, who farmed for many years to the northwest of Donaldda. Eleven students were enrolled for the first time. In 1912, classes were held in a vacant store on the present site of the Odd-fellows' Hall, and in 1913 the original two-room school was built. The first teacher was Miss Roxy M. Frazer, who later married Mike Vikse.

Picnics, horse races and baseball were the feature sports attractions in the early days. Dances were held in the pool hall, where the fiddlers were paid by passing the hat. Babies were put to sleep on one pool table, and the fiddlers used another as a platform.

Highlight of social functions in the early days of the town was the opening of the hotel in 1912. Mr. Haviland gave a big banquet, etc., prior to the election, but was dis-

appointed, however, as he did not get elected to the council.

## ELEVATOR

The elevator was built by a private individual in 1911 and sold to the Gillespie Grain Company in 1912, located on the east side of town on the railway siding, where the farmers brought their grain in by horse and wagon. Loads were tipped with a chain and gear which was cranked by hand. Air dumps didn't come in until the early 20's, with old style gas engines used to elevate the grain.

No record is presently available of the very early years, but 1952 has been recorded as the best year at Donaldda. The elevator was sold to the United Grain Growers in 1943, and continues to be operated under that name.

## HOTEL

The hotel which was erected in 1912 has had a long list of owners, but the original owners were the Calgary Wine and Spirits Company. Other renters and owners were John Tucker, Ed. Matheson, Haviland, Spoklie, Haggerty, Lett, Vandam, Wialing, Carl Johnson, etc., with Walter Mykytiw and George Stefura being the present day proprietors.

The building, quite imposing with its three stories, had twenty rooms, with seating capacity for 100 patrons at the bar, and covered Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Railway Street. The good people of the churches were quite opposed to the hotel before it was built, but they lost their battle. In the '30's when times were so bad, Jim Lett, the owner then, had a keg of beer open for three weeks, and finally had to roll it out and pour it out! The business was closed in 1914 until 1918 and also again in the early '20's when prohibition was in effect.

Bar hours in the early days were from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., with no lack of patrons in the good years. Carbide lamps hung from the ceiling, later being replaced by gas lamps. The hotel is still in operation today, with many changes in the outside structure. There is also a coffee shop in the building, in addition to a lobby.

# Businesses Came Slowly

## LUMBER YARD

Gradually other services were added to the community, a retail lumber yard was established in 1914, with early managers including Wm. Hoult until 1925, Gothard Loney, I. B. Lutz (now at Daysland), Howard Allenson, C. F. Jones, George Ross, Gartke, Maynard Thorsell, and the present manager, Thomas Goddard. The yard was built on Lots 15, 16 and 17 in Block 3 on the corner of Wallace Street and Alberta Avenue. This business has operated continually since it was established by the Revelstoke Sawmill Company.

#### ELEVATORS

Later business additions came between 1916 to the early '20's. The United Grain Growers built another elevator which was opened in 1916 and is still operating, but only one grain buyer operates the two elevators.

#### HARDWARE

The Donaldda Hardware has an interesting background. As a retail hardware and implement business the building was erected in 1918 on Lots 13, 14 and 15 of Block 2 and then later rebuilt in 1924 after a fire destroyed the original building. Original owners were Vic and O. H. Anderson who put up a brick building when they rebuilt after the fire. This business operated their own power generator until the Creamery took over in 1931 to supply power to the village. The hardware is still operating and is under the management of Robert Wotherspoon and C. F. Jones.

#### DRUG STORE

Leslie Bell, a licensed druggist

built what is now called the Murphy Building, in 1911, and he possessed the first telephone in Donaldda. Within a few years Collin Murphy bought him out and added an ice-cream parlor. Later, with W. E. Porter as a partner, they carried on a Real Estate business in the back, after the store was enlarged. Some time later J. W. Dempsey and Porter built what is now the Gimby Insurance place, and that part of the business moved from the Murphy building. In 1927 when the Post Office and Telephone Exchange burned down, the back of this store was used as a temporary telephone office while the new post office was being built. At one time Mrs. Lou Fisher had a beauty parlor there.

The building known today as the Ames Building, was built in 1919 by Ben Butzer and was also used as a hardware. Other owners included Walter McIntyre, Fred Ullman, Brown and Rod Patterson who sold to Cliff Tucky in 1943. Don Ames bought it in 1946 when he was discharged from the Armed Forces and sold out this year to

move to Ponoka.

This building has been taken over by C. F. Huff and Jack Cook who have formed a partnership and have taken over the Ames building for the purpose of running a sundry, clothing and grocery business.

#### CREAMERY

The Donaldda Co-op. Creamery was started in 1924 by Woodland Dairy operated by Greenbo and Paege. It became a co-operative in 1937. They started out in 1926 making 29,845 pounds of butter, and in 1954 turned out 216,708 pounds of butter. Just this year the business moved to larger premises directly across the street. When Henry Paege took over the creamery in 1931 he put in a power plant and supplied the town with power as well. The creamery also operated an egg grading station which gave the farmers an outlet for both cream and eggs. This business is one of the institutions of the Donaldda district, and continues to serve the people, although it is owned outright by the farmers.

## ROSEBUSH... Land of Roses

### *Minnesota Farmers Head North*

The history of the settlers into the Rosebush district covers a number of people who settled in that area and the areas approaching Meeting Creek on the west and as far south as Norbo and Ferry Point. This area was settled early, the land being grabbed up in a hurry. Three large influxes of settlers is recorded, taking place in the first three years after the turn of the century. Some of the settlers had already previously settled other areas, later moving to the Rosebush district.

Another large movement of settlers from Minnesota in 1901 brought such families as Alfred Anderson, Jesse Lien, E. J. Sand, while Charles Thompsons came from Iowa as did Charles J. Hanson. Eskeld Sand, Matthias Schiele, and many others. In those days of early settlement, privations were many and conveniences almost unknown.

#### LUMBER AT SPRUCE COULEE

Eskeld Sand had come from Norway to La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1869. He farmed in Wisconsin, southern Minnesota and at Detroit Lakes where he had managed to acquire 248 acres of land. He sold out to come to Alberta. The oldest son, Joseph, now retired and living in Camrose, tells with vivid recollection of the first few years. . . . "In the winter of 1901-02 the finest winter I have seen in this country, we had built a granary 16 x 24 x 12

feet of post drop-siding covered with tar paper and shiplap tacked on. We lived in this house for one year and it was fine and warm. That winter father got a permit to cut 9,250 feet of lumber in Spruce Coulee. This was all rough lumber and was used for dimension material. Finishing material was purchased and hauled from Wetaskiwin. Anton Flohr was carpenter, building the house in 1902. In 1901 a barn and lean-to was also built with all the material bought and hauled from Wetaskiwin. . . ."

Eskeld Sand helped to build the Ferry Point Church in 1905 and was also instrumental in starting the Rosebush School District, giving two acres of land to build the school on.

#### OLD EDBERG

In 1902 settlers east of Edberg and as far as into the Norbo district all got their mail at Old Edberg (3 miles west of the present town). One of the Sand boys would ride horseback and bring their mail from Edberg to the Sand home once a week, and the settlers would come there to pick up their mail. It is interesting to note that at that time there were 16 different Olsons who got their mail this way at Sands.

Mrs. Sand was noted for her woven carpets, having brought a loom with her. Besides weaving hundreds of yards of carpet herself, the loom travelled all over

the district and other farm women quickly availed themselves of the opportunity and learned the art of weaving. She was also a mainstay in the district in cases of sickness, acting most capably as a nurse.

#### EDSTROM STORE

Duhamel in those days was over 20 miles away and the Edberg Post Office was the closest until the Edstrom Brothers started a store and post office some 8 miles distant. The Ferry Point Store was also opened in 1903 and served as a supply point, with Camrose opening up for more widespread needs.

The Sands retired to Camrose in 1913 and their sons took over. Son Joe, located on the southwest quarter of 10-44-19. The open land on the homestead was the first

#### Accomplished Knitter



land broken, and Joe Sand used 4 horses and a 16-inch brush breaker. The mosquitoes, recalls Mr. Sand, were so thick that he could hardly tell the color of the horses. He also recalls going for drives with a smudge burning in the wagon otherwise the comfort was all on the side of the mosquitoes. He goes on to say . . . "In 1906 my brother Elmer, Elmer Johnson and myself bought a steam threshing outfit which was the first threshing outfit in Rosebush, and we threshed for many people in the community. Many jobs were small, and I remember threshing 84 jobs in 42 days one year.

#### RAIN — RAIN

Rain at that time was the bane of all settlers' existence. Joe Sand tells of one trip to town, Wetsaskiwin, which took 3 or 4 days. Roads were mere wagon trails and due to much rain were wet and muddy. Hauling lumber for his father's first barn in 1910, he remembers that it started raining after the 2 wagons had been loaded with lumber and other supplies. The trip home took two days with continual rain all the time. When the party had reached to within five miles from home one horse played out and both teams were put on one wagon which got them to within one mile of home. A horse from each team had played out by then. They hooked the best horses to the load and arrived home wet and tired. He rented his father's land when he retired to Camrose and later took it over. Joe Sand served his community ably, being on the school board for 21 years and was most actively interested in community affairs.

#### LONG TREK

A long and arduous trip was made by one group of pioneers in 1901 when the C. J. Hanson family and Hans Hanson (father), Andrew Anderson, Hegbert Olson and John Anderson drove by team and wagon from their homes in South Dakota to Portal. Here they camped for a week, putting up hay, loaded their goods, including horses, wagons, etc., in railway cars and travelled by train, taking advantage of the cheap rates for immigrants. They arrived in Wetsaskiwin and camped in an immigrant tent for some time due to the continuous heavy rains. As soon as possible they drove to Meeting Creek area and camped near the Jonas Anderson home (now Elmer Johnson's) until the men had put up some hay and also built the log house on the C. J. Hanson homestead, southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 28-43-19.

Mr. Hans Hanson's homestead was the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 32-43-19. They had lived in the log house for a year or two when a frame house was built on this homestead.

Swamp fever had claimed all the horses of C. J. Hanson so he bought oxen to do his breaking with. Later he returned to horses for the farm work.



C. J. HANSON AND FAMILY

## Nursed for 25 Years

The youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hanson, Hilda, was married to Lawrence Michelsen in 1927 and they lived with her parents, taking over the farming there and on their own land nearby.

Soon this house was to become a very busy place. Mrs. Michelsen was a well trained nurse and especially loved obstetrics. She started a nursing home, using some of the rooms of the house and it soon became known as the Rosebush Nursing Home. She had this home for 25 years and delivered some 500 babies during that time. Her services were soon demanded for others, too. Many with cuts, wounds or other ailments, sought her aid. No one ever asked for help in vain. If Mrs. Michelsen was unable to go or help she would do what she could.

Looking back upon those years, Mrs. Michelsen would say . . . "It was hard and trying sometimes, but the experience I received and the joy I had of helping someone was worth more than money . . ." Mr. and Mrs. Michelsen now live at Melrose, Mass., where Mrs. Michelsen continues the work of nursing at the New England Sanitorium.

#### "ROSEBUSH"

Charles Hanson was a man who appreciated the things nature had given to the settlers, especially the great profusion of rosebushes, some of which grew saddle-high in the district. He was the man who gave the district its fitting name of "Rosebush".

Charles Thompson had an interesting early life, working for H. Oium and many other settlers the first few years. Then in 1903 he worked together with a group of men surveying land from Bawlf to the Saskatchewan border. The wages paid the men were \$1.25 per day. The Thompson family lived with K. Knutson (Mrs. Thompson's father) on his homestead those first years until 1904

when Charles located on the homestead on the southwest quarter of 32-43-19 where he built a house. Kravik and Kibbie helped Thompson break the land on his homestead. He was a handy man at many kinds of work. He did much work as a carpenter, a tinsmith, and also hunted and trapped. One of the first years he trapped 900 muskrats. He also clerked at stores during the winter and his hobby on the farm included the repairing of clocks and watches.

#### FIRST CAR

Matthias Schiele was born at Wurttemberg, Germany, serving in the German army until he was 23 years old. Upon his discharge he went to South Dakota where he resided and farmed for ten years. When moving to Alberta in 1901, he shipped his horses, cattle, sheep, etc., on the train. He was a great sheep raiser and at one time after he had established himself in Alberta, he had 200 sheep. When they first came the family lived in a small lumber building but in 1903 he built a good sized frame house. Mr. Schiele had the honor of owning the first car in the Rosebush district, a Model T Ford car which he purchased in 1912.

#### ABUNDANCE OF FRUIT

He served on the school board for 6 or 7 years and was a councillor for the municipal district for 28 years. Mr. Schiele recalls when Dr. McLeod of Ferintosh was the first representative in the government, later followed by George Peter Smith. He mentions the wild berries that were plentiful, especially on the school section west of Schiele, and also by the river. Such berries as gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, chokecherries and cranberries grew in abundance. The only road in the country at that time was the "Winnipeg Trail" which passed through the quarter south of his homestead, then belonging to C. J. Hanson and later to himself.

# Rosebush Saw '01 Surrey

Jesse Lien and his family of four children came by train from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1901, taking with them all their household possessions and livestock. Among their articles was a surrey buggy which was the only one of its kind to arrive in the district. They located on a homestead on the northeast quarter of 28-43-19, where he built a fair-sized log house.

Cash was very scarce for the early settlers and they made use of what they had as far as possible, for both clothes and food. Mr. Lien tanned hides and from these made moccasins and mittens. He was a tailor by trade and bought goods in quantity, sometimes by the bolt, and made clothes. He would go to the river or lake quite often to fish and bring home a tubfull of fish. Some of the fish were salted, some smoked and what he didn't need for the house was then fed to the pigs.

## HOGS AT 3 CENTS

He raised a number of hogs, and the family remembers once in the winter he took a sleigh load full of dressed hogs, about 27 in number, to Wetaskiwin to market. He found a market for only half the load. The price at that time was 3 cents a pound. He returned with the rest of the load, taking it to the Smith Brothers at the Ferry Point Store where he sold some more. The rest he had to sell or trade for whatever he could get in the neighborhood.

Mr. Lien was a friend of Geo. Peter Smith and hauled much freight from Duhamel to Ferry Point, sometimes all the way from Wetaskiwin to Ferry Point. In those days the Smith boys floated most of their freight on rafts down the river to their store.

## 'RAT TRAPPERS

The oldest boy, Alfred trapped

about 600 'rats a year, selling the furs at from 3 to 10 cents a pelt. He also learned to make fish nets, taught him by Ole Haugen, and these he made for many people. Another son, Edwin Albert Lien was the first white baby born in Rosebush, on November 2nd, 1901. Irvin Hall now owns and resides on the Lien homestead.

Alfred Anderson was a brother of Mrs. J. Lien and accompanied the Liens on their move to Alberta. He located on a homestead on the southwest quarter of 6-44-19 where he built a small log house and proved up on his homestead. He was much interested in hunting fishing and trapping and built a log shack by the river where he camped at times during his hunting and fishing expeditions.

He was married in 1905 to the daughter of Ole Larson and passed away about six years later. His wife carried on with the homestead for several years, later marrying Peter Franquist.

## MAIL CARRIER

Ben Benson came to the Edberg district in 1900 where he rented the A. Erickson farm for a year. While he was there the nearest post office at that time was Duhamel and his daughter Sadie who was about 10 years old, would ride horseback from Erickson's to Duhamel for the mail, a trip that was about 22 miles.

In '02 he located on the southwest quarter of 34-843-19, and with his oxen broke his land, and for other settlers as well. He cut logs in Spruce Coulee and hauled them to the sawmill. This he did for many people. Later he bought a team of horses and went out breaking land. His daughter Sadie would drive the horses while he guided the oxen and held the plow. They returned to the States for a year

and then remained in the district until 1915 when they moved away.

## EX-ARMY DRUMMER

Knut Knutson had also been a soldier in Norway, being an army drummer there for 12 years. They immigrated to Iowa with their family and farmed there for many years before Mrs. Knutson died. After the turn of the century he heard of the opportunities offered to immigrants in Alberta and he again decided to try pioneer life in that new land. He filed on the northwest quarter of 34-43-19, and with the aid of Ole Rasmussen of Edberg broke 6 acres on his homestead with a 12-inch plow. This was seeded to barley and a patch of potatoes. Here we are reminded that Mr. Knutson was very fond of potatoes with his meals and he took special care in keeping his potato garden clean. That fall he harvested two large stacks of barley and 70 bushels of good potatoes. Many persons in the district bought seed potatoes from him, some coming a great distance. He enjoyed walking and would often walk to Edberg and home again. He was also good at horseback riding which he continued even at the age of 80 years. His neighbors remember his liking for fishing, supplying his neighbors as well, and also his doing his own work, keeping everything neat and orderly on his farm. This homestead is now owned by Mrs. G. Montgomery.

## FIRST BRASS BAND

Mr. Harvie Kibbie, an Irishman who had come from Michigan in 1902 to settle on the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 32-43-19, made his way quite well in the Norwegian settlement. He farmed until 1912 when he moved with his wife to Edberg and was a blacksmith and later a grain buyer. He is well remembered in the district as a member of the first brass band in this community. Members were mostly from the Meeting Creek area. The director at that time was Roy Camfield and instruments had been brought in by individuals who had played in some other band before coming here. The band played on many special occasions. One time in particular was when the C.N.R. tracks were being laid from Camrose to the south, and upon nearing Edberg the band met the crew and officials at a place north of Edberg, where the band gave some jubilant music to celebrate and welcome the first railroad to this locality. His farm was later taken over by Fred Rosenkranz in about 1912.

Anton Ramstad came here from Minnesota in 1902 and located on a homestead on the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 2-44-19. He married Josephine Kravik of this district and lived on the homestead for a few years, later selling it to Eskeld Sand. For several years he lived in the Donalda district and Alliance area, later returning to Mrs. Ramstad's parental home.

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Albert Lien brought his family from Minnesota to Alberta in 1902



Part of the 500 babies delivered by Mrs. Mickelsen in her nursing home in the Rosebush district. This was part of a gathering of district persons who came to honor the woman who had devoted so much time to their care, and delivered so many of their children, during the 25 years that she operated the home from her house.

where they located on the southwest quarter of 4-44-19, His hobby was photography and he continued that work occasionally. Many photographs from the early days are still in the district, as well as a few paintings he did. He sold his farm to F. Derwantz in 1907 and returned to Norway.

Anton Flohr also came from Minnesota and batched for several years on his homestead located on the southeast quarter of 10-44-19. He was a carpenter by trade and had a lathe set up in his house to turn out special jobs. One of his specialties that was appreciated by the ladies were the lefse rolling pins he made. He loved music and was the director of the first choir in the locality, which included members for miles around in the Ferry Point, Meeting Creek and Rosebush areas. The song book he used was the "Frydetoner".

#### FIRST NORWEGIAN FESTIVAL

This brings to mind the first Norwegian festival which was planned for May 17, 1903, to be held on a chosen spot in the northern part of the district south of the river. Mr. Flohr was the instigator of this plan and he did much to make it a success, receiving notice from far and wide. The program was to include speeches, special musical numbers by the choir, duets, etc. A picnic lunch was planned and there would be games and other sports. On the morning of May 17 the countryside was white with a blanket of snow. Hopes for the planned picnic were shattered. However, at noon that day, word came that people had arrived at the Sand home from New Norway and some from further away, and all persons were to meet at the Sand home. Thus it happened that the spacious home of Eskeld Sand became the assembly place.

He returned to Minnesota in 1904 and married Inga Balke, coming back to his homestead. He then traded for the southeast quarter of 2-44-19 and farmed this, later selling to Edd Olson. The Flohr family moved to Bawlf where Mr. Flohr had a butcher shop for a few years. This he sold and moved to

Edberg and started up another. He left the district in 1926, going to Sexsmith.

Jesse Corliss was a Vermont-born Yankee who homesteaded in the Rosebush area in 1902 on the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 26-43-19. After a few years he sold the land to Hans Olson and lived near the E. Erickson farm in Ferry Point, returning to the States a few years later.

According to the emigrant contract (Utvandrare Kontrakt) made for the Liden family to journey to America, the family boarded a steamship (Cunard Line) at Gothenburg, Sweden, on April 3, 1903, and sailed to Hull, England. After passing customs there, they travelled by train to Liverpool and there waited for a steamship to New York or Boston in America. From here they travelled by train to Wetaskiwin, and by team and wagon to the homestead in Rosebush, arriving the latter part of April and settling on the southeast quarter of 16-44-19.

This is the land where Jacob August Liden built as that was the only arrangement possible in order that his aged father could live with them. Part of the Winnipeg trail passed through his land and in the early years Indians would sometimes stop to ask about something as they travelled through. Mr. Liden made good use of tanned hides for harnesses and mending mittens and shoes. His wife was an accomplished weaver as well as a dressmaker and did considerable spinning and knitting. They were charter members of the Meeting Creek Swedish Lutheran Church.

## RAILROADER GOES HOMESTEADING

The last of the large immigration of settlers to the Rosebush district came in the year of 1903. Marius J. Langmo and his wife had immigrated from Norway to Oakes, North Dakota, in 1901, where he worked on the railroad. In 1903, when moving to Alberta the family shipped their effects which were lost en route. More trying times were in store for the Langmo's when they reached Alberta for the lumber they had purchased for a home had burned up in the Spruce Coulee fire, and one of his two cows was mysteriously shot. He bought his first team of horses from Mr. Schiele for \$80.00, and a good set of harness for \$22.00. With this cash spent on necessities he remembers the last six months in 1903 when he had only ten cents which he kept until he managed to earn \$1.00 at Christmas-time for work done for Mr. Schiele. His homestead was situated on the southeast section of 32-43-19. The old Winnipeg trail passed through his land, angling in a south-easterly direction toward the present land of Oliver Kasa through there and on by Ainar Pearson's, through Alfred Lien's place and then continuing south-eastward. He served on the Rosebush School Board for 24 years. Gardening and the raising of fruit trees was a great hobby with both Mr. and Mrs. Langmo, who to this day still reside on their homestead.



JESSE CORLISS



MR. AND MRS. ESKELD SAND



HOME OF JESSE LIEN

## Second Start at 52 Years

Peter Harbo Olufson came to the Rosebush area in 1902 to take up his homestead on the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 34-43-19. He later purchased 400 acres adjoining his homestead, and then built on the north-east  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 27-43-19. Mr. Olufson came to Canada when he was 52 years of age, and had already done his pioneering in Minnesota and the Dakotas. The early story of his life encompasses some of the reasons why so many settlers came to the Americas from Norway, and further, the reason why these people were so richly endowed with the pioneer spirit and drive.

As told by his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Hall of Camrose, the following story perhaps set the pattern for many thousands of immigrants who came to this country and were able to endure so well the privations and hard years of the homesteading days.

### FAMINE

"Our parents were used to hardships from childhood days, as our grandparents had come out of a period of famine in Norway and the living was made under most trying circumstances. Thus the children had to go out to work for others at a very early age. As a young boy father worked hard to earn enough to buy books and to finish his course for Norwegian parochial school teacher. He taught school for several years in Norway.

At the age of 12 years, mother started working out at dairy work and caring for cattle in the mountains (Saterjente). In winter when she had less to do outside she learned to card, spin, knit, weave and sew, and became a tailor (skradder). Her cash earning were \$3.00 a year and after she worked

for four years she bought a hand sewing machine for the \$12.00. When she came to America she brought it with her, as well as her spinning wheel and a chest made and given to her in Norway. The family still treasure these possessions. The sewing machine was a most wonderful thing when she arrived in America and found that none of the settlers of her neighborhood in the early years had one, and so it was loaned to many of them as well.

### TEACHER

In about 1885 father came to America and taught in different places in Minnesota and Dakota territories. In 1888 he came to Walworth County, South Dakota, and took land a few miles from the present town of Selby. Mother came early in 1888 and worked in Bangor where she learned to speak some English. Father and mother had very little to start with on the homestead and their struggle for livelihood was a hard one. However, with much hard work, perseverance and putting thrift into practice, the hard days of pioneer life in Dakota brought results.

### DROUGHT

At about the turn of the century drought conditions prevailed, year after year, and things looked discouraging. At this time one heard glowing reports about Sunny Alberta, where new land, could be bought at a low price, and the immigrants from many lands were arriving there in large numbers.

Father got the so-called "Canada Fever" and early in 1902 he and a few neighbors went to Alberta on a speculation trip. They went by train to Wetaskiwin and from there by team and sleigh. The winter was exceptionally nice here that year. They came to the Jonas

Anderson and John Hanson homes.

### FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

Father sold the farm in South Dakota, with plans to leave in April. We children looked forward to what was to be our first ride on a train. However, it was not easy, especially for our parents, to say farewell to the many old neighbors we were leaving behind and the home that had been built so many years ago.

In company with the Stener Hilde family we boarded the train at Herried, South Dakota, and travelled across the vast plains in North Dakota and crossed the border at Portal where we had to stay for several days. When we reached Moose Jaw it was raining and as we travelled westward the rains increased. At Calgary we learned the railroad track going north had washed out and that we were to stay in the Immigrant House till it was repaired. Father was given \$1.00 a day to buy food supplies for the time of delay here. We were there nearly two weeks. Once the track was repaired we were on our way again. The further north we went the more trees we saw, and these were beautiful to us who had hardly seen any trees in South Dakota.

### DESTINATION REACHED

Finally we reached our destination, Wetaskiwin. The train ride was over but there was still 45 miles of wagon trail to drive with team and wagon before the homestead would be reached, and now we found the trail was impassable due to deep water and mud.

Father who had for some time corresponded with Rev. C. Nodtvedt, a United Lutheran pastor at Silverton, Oregon, and knew he was moving to Alberta found that he had already arrived, and he offered to share his house with us. They made us very welcome. During this time in Wetaskiwin father



After Sunday services in the summer of 1902, these visitors, with their pastor, Rev. Nodtvedt, stayed for a social afternoon with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Olufson.

had purchased more land and 400 acres were added to the homestead.

#### WINDING TRAILS

Nearly two weeks had passed when Mrs. Hanson, Andrew Anderson and Mr. Sand came with the news that we could get through and that they would help. Next morning we started with some riding horseback herding the cattle and others driving in the wagons. We travelled eastward over a winding trail which sometimes took us right across sloughs deep enough to let water into the wagon boxes.

The rich soil gave heavy growth and there were groves of trees, brush thickets, berry bushes, intermingled with stretches of grassland and sloughs. A profusion of flowers of which the rosebush seemed predominating. Thus our district was named "Rosebush".

At that time there were many trees large enough for building material. The diamond willow made good fence posts, but the roots were hard to budge when it came to clearing land. Father broke five acres the first year. It was hard work to clear land, brushing, grubbing and breaking. Slow as it was, little by little the fields grew. Mr. Hanson and Mr. Benson helped break some land for father. Sometimes the work was done using two oxen and two horses on the plow.

#### PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Our parents' greatest concern was the Christian welfare of the family, and at an early age we were taught table and bed-time prayers and Bible stories. We attended parochial schools held 4 to 6 weeks each year and also Sunday School. Father was often the teacher and loved that work; he would teach in other districts as well. These schools and services were held in homes until the school houses were built.

#### SKIING PASTOR

Rev. C. Nodtvedt who moved to Edberg district in 1902 was our first pastor in Rosebush and served his pastorate faithfully driving with team and buggy or sleigh in all kinds of weather to his preaching

places. He was good at skiing and when roads were blocked with snow he would ski from his home across country to Donalda district to meet his appointments. The same was done to reach his engagements in other directions.

Being much interested in Christian education, father was among the founders of the Camrose Lutheran College, and two daughters and one son later became graduates of this institution.

#### CROSSED OCEAN IN SAILBOAT

Julius Otte Olson had crossed the ocean with his mother in 1871 from Norway in a sailboat, and settled in Minnesota. Finally in 1902 he headed north and located himself on a homestead in Wetaskiwin, giving that up the same year. He arrived in the Rosebush district that same year and filed on the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 2-44-19.

In the summer of 1902 Julius Olson took a contract to break some land for Ole Bakken. Together with his son Obert and Anton Ramstad they used two outfits. Three horses were put on one small breaking plow and three oxen on the other. This breaking was done on land where the city of Camrose is located, and at that time Ole Bakken lived in a dugout.

Mr. Olson also had a number of cattle from Francois Adam. These he had on shares and the undertaking was a success for him. Mr. Olson lived near the river and the river flat lent itself nicely to the raising of cattle. Also in those early years the settlers were able to let their cattle graze on open range until the herd law came into effect. A grandson, Gordon Olson, now owns and resides on the homestead.

#### DIAMOND WILLOW POSTS

The Elling Kravik family also came in 1902 to the Rosebush area, having spent the previous year at New Norway. They settled on the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 28-43-19. Combining ox teams with Mr. Hanson, the two homesteaders helped each other break land. They, like many others, made rail fences. For this

they used the diamond willow for posts and poplar for rails which were of good size and plentiful in those days. Two posts were sharpened and put in the ground far enough apart to fit the rails to lie between. For a while in '05 and '06 Mr. Kravik used the small young willows as these were pliable and could be twisted and then laced around the two posts neatly, and when dry were strong and stayed in place. or a while in 1905 and '06 Mr. Kravik hauled freight from Bawlf to the Ferry Point Store with his oxen. His sons trapped a lot of muskrats, and it is estimated that in the early years they would trap about 1,500 rats a year. They also trapped weasels, coyotes and a few lynx.

Area residents will have fond memories of the many young folks who would gather at the Kravik home to play games, do tricks, run foot races or play ball. Several of the Kravik boys were destined to become good baseball players.

#### ACCOMPLISHED KNITTER

Mrs. Kravik, who lived to the age of 86 years, is well remembered in the district for she was very active and worked hard. She picked a lot of berries in the early days carrying them in milk pails to the nearest store to exchange for groceries, about 5 or 6 miles distant. Besides being able to card and spin, she is perhaps most well remembered for her knitting. She was well known to knit while she walked, and could do this with such ease it seemed second nature to her. She could knit a sock while walking from her home to New Norway, and another sock the next day while walking home again.

## Ladies Aid Organized Fifty Two Years Ago

Engrained deep in the hearts of pioneer children are memories of mother scurrying her household around on Ladies' Aid Day. Everything moved at a rapid pace with mother's efforts to get the household organized for the day she would be away. As such it was, for often this was the one and only highlight in the lives of the pioneer women. The Rosebush Ladies' Aid was no exception and many fond recollections came to the fore on July 4, 1953, when this group celebrated their Golden Jubilee.

They were organized early in 1903 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Olufson, a small loghouse. Many attended, some from a distance including Rev. and Mrs. Nodtvedt of Edberg. It seems that nearly all the ladies of the district became members of that Aid. Mrs. Olufson became the first vice-president, and the next year Mrs. Eskeld Sand took over.

#### PRODUCE WAS MONEY

Here we are reminded that early settlers had little money or cash. They traded their produce at the country stores for what they required and the Ladies' Aid members would then buy prints, silks, gingham, shirting, flannelette, worsted materials, thread, lace and linen, and give as they could to the

Aid. In this way they were able to get along without any cash. Those who had sheep would give wool for yarn or quilts. In the early days they worked at the meetings, some spinning, some carding, some knitting and others sewing. Not to be forgotten, there was always a period for the devotional program during the day. The hostess served both dinner and afternoon lunch, for the ladies remained all day.

#### AIM

The aim of the Ladies' Aid was, and still is, to work for the maintenance of Christian education, for the children, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and to help pay the minister's salary. Later belonging to the W.M.F., the ladies gave as they could to all departments of the church.

Annual sales were held each fall, selling the articles by auction, a practise which has been maintained throughout the years. After the schoolhouse was built, it became a meeting place, and later when the schoolhouse was moved, the ladies met in private homes.

Vacation Bible School was always held on the last day of school, combined with the Ladies' Aid sale and lunch to conclude the day.

The Alfred Lien home was the settling for the 50th Anniversary program two years ago, with the familiar sale and lunch. Mrs. Chas. Thompson of Bashaw, the only living charter member, was present for the occasion. Other former members from a distance were: Mrs. Clara Olson of Edberg, Mrs. F. Derwantz of Stettler, Mrs. J. T. Sand and Mrs. W. E. Hall of Camrose, with greetings received from Mrs. Elmer Johnson of Chilliwack, B.C., Mrs. Eli Olson of Calgary, and Mrs. L. Michelsen of Melrose, Massachusetts.

# School 48 Years Old

Three years ago, when the old Rusebush School was moved to the Howard Sand property, an old landmark of 48 years' standing was removed. At that time The Canadian published a history of the school, its first teacher, Mr. E. A. Quantz, and pictures to commemorate the historic occasion (Edition of June 4, 1952). However, for the purpose of adding to the foregoing historical record of the pioneers of the Rosebush area, a condensation of some of the most interesting facts are presented here.

#### DONATED LAND

The land for the Rosebush School was originally donated by Eskeld Sand, so that it was most fitting that the school should now rest on the property of his grandson, Howard Sand. Besides donating the land, Mr. Sand also contributed the school bell, which hung in the belfry all these years, summoning children to school, welcoming the people to the many meetings held there outside of school hours.

The school district was organized in 1902, with C. J. Hanson giving the very fitting name of Rosebush. The district also received the number "789".

The spot on which the school was built was five and a half miles southeast of Edberg, and quite central in the district. Most of the early buildings were log houses. During this time the government allowed each settler a permit to take out 9,250 feet of lumber on government land, the settler to cut and haul the logs to the sawmill and pay for the sawing of the lumber. Spruce Coulee, heavily wooded and less than 25 miles distant, was such a place. In the

winter of 1902-03, John Anderson and Olaus Haukedahl operated a sawmill here for this work. Nearly all the settlers availed themselves of this opportunity. Such a permit was also secured for the schoolhouse, with Mr. Benson hired by the School Board to cut and haul logs to the mill. Thus it was that the school was largely built from native lumber.

As time went on many improvements were added, a furnace installed and structural changes made. However, the new system of centralization changed the future of Rosebush and the spring term of 1945, saw the last class taught at the Rosebush school.

Edwin A. Quantz, first teacher at Rosebush, has perhaps one of the most outstanding records in the teaching profession. He is now 89 years of age, and chalked up an admirable record, for he was still teaching at the age of 86 years. He is now retired and resides with his daughter and family at Innisfail. Mr. Quantz also homesteaded in the Daysland area, and his recollections of that area, contained in the history of Daysland and District, was most valuable information for this historical edition.

#### GRAND OLD LADY

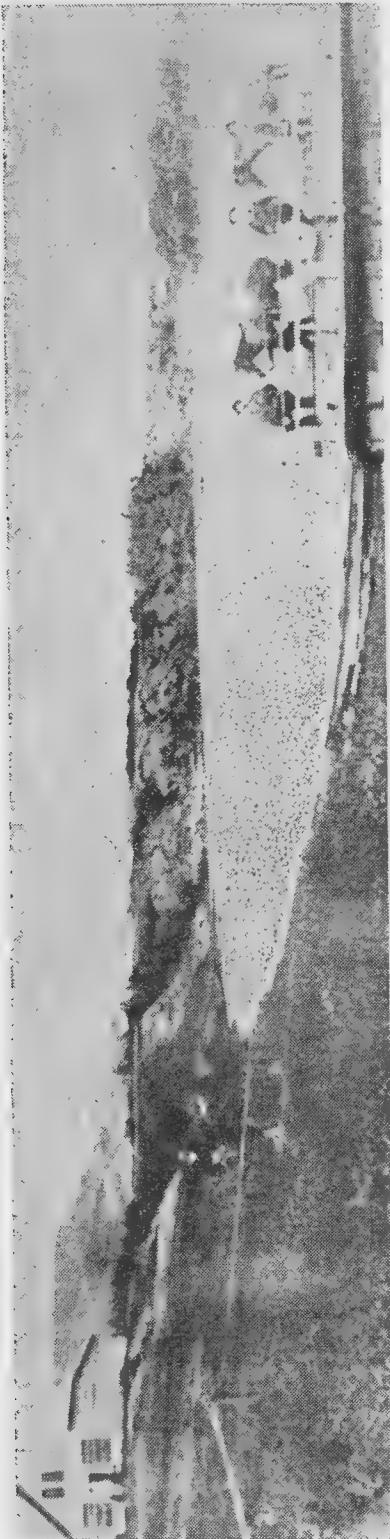
The Grand Old Lady of Rosebush, is considered to be Mrs. Ole Flohr. She will celebrate her 88th birthday in June of 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Flohr moved here from Minnesota in 1911, locating on the south half of 3-44-19. The couple celebrated their Golden and Diamond wedding anniversaries in the district in 1937 and 1947, the only Golden wedding marked in the district so far.

## SCHOOL CLOSES AFTER 48 YEARS



## The Ferry Point Store and Ferry

The store, seen in the upper left hand corner of the picture, served both sides of the river and was built in the spring of 1903 by George and Norman Smith. Later, a hall was built at this site which now stands in Rosalind, which is used as a community hall. Many a pioneer crossed on this ferry, and one pioneer, Carl Levang, of New Norway, had a hazardous ride down the river on this ferry when the cable broke when he was amidstream.



# River Crossing a Hazard

A group of five families, all but one of Norwegian extraction came to the Ferry Point district as early as 1902. These settlers who all arrived the same year and left homes in Minnesota to explore the then Northwest Territories of Canada. Among these settlers were: Ole Haugen, Iver Bjorge, Nels Duklet, Charles Seaquist and Ole Moland. They all took homesteads in this Ferry Point area in township 43, ranges 18 and 18. This area is bordered by the Battle River on the eastern side and provided good farming land.

### FLOUR MILL

Ole Haugen had immigrated from Norway to Minnesota, and then in 1901 had started the long trek northwards, arriving in the Ferry Point area where he filed on a homestead on the northeast quarter of 22-43-19. In conjunction with his farming, as a sideline he built a flour mill and ground wheat for flour, and also manufactured a breakfast cereal from wheat and other grains. He was also instrumental in getting the Ferry Point Mutual Telephone established in the district and was a member of the School Board for a number of years. Today his only son, Reuben, still owns the homestead, which he has rented out.

### PERILS OF TRAVEL

Iver Bjorge, who was born in the same place in Norway as Ole Haugen, Gulbrandsdalen, had first come to the America's to settle in Minnesota. In 1902 he arrived in Wetaskiwin, bound for Ferry Point where he already knew some of the settlers. His homestead was filed on the northwest quarter of 20-43-18, and as he had brought his wife and family with him he set them up in temporary housekeeping quarters in Wetaskiwin until their cows, horses, machinery and household effects arrived by freight. A team and wagon was rigged up and the family struck off overland or cross country to the location of their homestead. A lake or very large slough had to be crossed and in the midst of it the wagon box began to float and was in danger of drifting away from the wagon. After safely crossing this body of water no more hazardous experiences were met with but the flies and mosquitoes made life almost unbearable. The homesteads were reached where rude shacks had already been built out of poplar logs.

### RAFTED LUMBER

The oldest son, Hjalmer, bought lumber in Wetaskiwin and constructed a large raft upon which he loaded the settlers effects and floated it on the waters of a creek north of Wetaskiwin which empties into the Battle River, and in this manner reached to within two miles of the homestead. A nephew, Conrad Bjorge, of Wetaskiwin, also came out to this area about the same time and took out a homestead. Iver Bjorge was always interested in Church and Sunday

School affairs and was one of the first Sunday School teachers at the Bethlehem Lutheran Free Church, situated in the Ferry Point district. This church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1954.

Nels Duklet, whose wife was a sister of Iver Bjorge, came up from Minnesota with his family at the same time, 1902, settling on a homestead on the northwest quarter of 18-43-18.

### EDENSVILLE

Charles Seaquist and his wife, Mathilda, were Swedish home steader who had come up from Judson, Minnesota, where Mrs. Seaquist was born. They had arrived in Wetaskiwin in 1901, but had not come to the Ferry Point district until 1902, settling on the northwest quarter of 14-43-19. At that time their nearest post office was located at Edensville, which is now known as Meeting Creek. Mrs. Seaquist is the only living charter member of the Bethesda Ladies' Aid and has been conferred with a life membership. Her great pride was in her garden, and her social interests settled around church affairs.

Ole Moland was born in Norway and came with his parents in 1900 to Climax, Minnesota, then he came to the Ferry Point district in 1902 and took out a homestead on the northeast quarter of 36-43-19. Ole Moland's father, Andrew Moland took his homestead and it has been used for pasturing cattle ever since. He bought the southwest quarter of 25-43-19 where he lived until his death in 1940. Ole and his family are still living there on the farm. Both Moland families were ardent church workers.

### CHURCH PASSES 50TH YEAE

It was on January 4th, 1904 that a small group of people met at the Iver Bjorge home to organize the Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation. Rev. J. H. Stavney then served as pastor to the community. Andrew Moland was elected secretary, E. G. Sand as treasurer and Gunnar Olson and Iver Bjorge as deacons. Trustees were Johannes Anderson and Ole Paulson and the Sunday School superintendent was Iver Bjorge. Charter members of the congregation were Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Sand, Mr. and Mrs. Iver Bjorge, Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Moland and Ole Paulson.

As no church was available, services were held in individual homes until a building committee was organized in March of the following year. The church was completed by August 30, 1905, and the congregation was incorporated under the laws of Alberta. Thirteen pastors have served the church.

The Ladies' Aid, known as the Bethesda Ladies' Aid was organized in September of 1903 and is still flourishing. The congregation celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1954, a wonderful tribute to the early pioneers who recognized that spiritual life required nourishment.

# Store and Post Office Served District

The district of Ferry Point was served by a store and post office, and later saw the addition of a community hall. This store served both sides of the river after the ferry was put in, which included the Ferry Point and Rosebush districts on the west and the Heather Brae area east of the river.

In the spring of 1903, George and Norman Smith started a trading post at Ferry Point, two miles south of the homestead of W. L. Landkamer. What few neighbors there were helped the two men erect their two-story building. After it was far enough along to be habitable, the Smith brothers floated their wares by scow down the Battle River, then down Dried Meat Lake within one hundred yards of their Ferry Point store. At that time it was almost impossible to haul anything by team and oxen as the roads were most impassable on account of mud.

Their clerk in those days was Joe Nevue, a Frenchman. The store was lit in the early days with coal oil lamps, and coal and wood were used as fuel. Several years later the Smith's sold this store to the Thirsk's. They also sold their store at Duhamel, to come to the rising new town of Camrose. Geo. Peter Smith and his brother, Norman, went into business again in

Camrose, and Geo. P. later started The Camrose Canadian.

The Ferry Point Hall, which was built later, stayed in that spot until 1921 when the building was moved to Rosalind. It still remains in use at that point.

The lumber for the Ferry Point store building, some 15,000 to 20,000 board feet, was built into a barge by Bob Mutch at Gwynne. The structure was 26 x 30 feet and built to a height of several feet, Bob Mutch building the structure. Groceries, including flour, enough to open the business, were taken down on the structure top. Despite the care being taken, some wetting to groceries resulted, mostly to beans—as a whole, the supplies arrived in good condition.

Westley Thirsk gives some interesting incidents in connection with the Ferry Point store.

## THIRSKS

Thomas Thirsk purchased the store from George P. Smith in the fall of 1903. Norman Smith was running it at the time. Westley Thirsk was put in charge and was postmaster. The nearest railroad and bank was at Wetaskiwin, over fifty miles away. Quoting Mr. Thirsk, "It became my job to go to Wetaskiwin at least every two weeks with the bank deposit and to



# School Early at D.M.L.

## *School Served Silver Creek And Viewpoint Areas*

The formation of the school districts in those early days later developed marked areas which, in most cases, took the name of the school. Directly east of New Norway lay the Viewpoint school district. To the north of Viewpoint, and extending to the Battle River dividing line, was the district of Silver Creek. On the eastern border of these two districts, and extending to another natural river division, was the district that took the name of Dried Meat Lake, which was joined on the south by Edberg district.

Many of the pioneers of these first three districts were for the most part included in the Duhamel and New Norway history,

but for the few additional ones that were not included, extra information is included in this article.

The Dried Meat School was built in 1902 on the corner of the northwest quarter of 10-45-20, which was almost on the border

return with a load of merchandise. We always used four horses and it took three days, one to go and two to return with a load. The roads did not follow the section lines, but along the ridges or high points of land. When we travelled over a low piece of land we usually found it built up with corduroy. The streams were forded. In the winter time we used to go through the Lewisville and New Norway districts and crossed Dried Meat Lake as Sherman Fox's."

"The Alberta Hotel in Wetaskiwin, operated by V. Matejki was the popular stopping place for the early settlers. The prices charged were 25¢ for a bed and 25¢ for a meal, which was served table d'hote, and the tables were generously loaded with food. At the half-way or stopping places on the way home, the usual price charged was 20¢ for beds and 20¢ for meals, and 25¢ for a team of horses. We usually furnished our own oats."

"Money was scarce with the majority of the settlers so at the store we took in a great quantity of butter, eggs and muskrat skins in exchange for merchandise. We would take in several thousand muskrat skins during each winter. The price paid was from 6 to 8 cents a skin. Coffee sold at 25¢ a pound, some preferred to buy the green coffee bean and roast it themselves, this was sold at 14 to 16 cents a pound. Our greatest sale in shoes was of split leather with wooden peg soles. The children's shoes sold at 95¢ to \$1.10 and the men's and women's sold at \$1.40 to \$1.50 per pair. The standard dress prints sold at 12½¢ a yard and flannelette blankets sold for \$1.20 a pair. Stanley Stauffer was our right hand man at the store.

"We operated the ferry at Ferry Point for two years before the steel bridge was put in. The material for this bridge was all teamworked from Wetaskiwin. We then sold the Ferry Point store to Campbell Bros., and Pennington."

of the Viewpoint district. Until the Silver Creek and Viewpoint schools were built much later, the school served the three districts.

## THIRTY-EIGHT PUPILS

The first teacher was Netie Margaret Polly, of St. John, New Brunswick, who had come West to teach on a permit. She received \$42.00 per month, and then paid out \$10.00 a month for board and room. Her pupils numbered thirty-eight, some of them being young men 16 to 19 years of age who had never attended school before.

The men who organized the district and became the first trustees were Cameron Ashton, Solomon K. Allen and Laurent Solway. That first year, nine families attended the school, including the Allen family of six, the three Cole children, seven Dumont children, two Desche-



Schleigal and Townsend, who came up from Minnesota in 1901, unloaded their outfit at Wetaskiwin and threshed their way to the Dried Meat Lake district. It was thought this machine was bought by Ellsworth Hills.

## Dried Meat Farmer Became Town Merchant

**G**EORGE Mathew Fisher was an Iowa man who settled five miles east of New Norway, as a neighbor of the Jones', Jerred's and Stuve's. He first rented land and then homesteaded. Here he farmed until 1910, when he came to Camrose on May 10th and purchased the dray business of Rushton and Hawkins. He carried on this business for 16 years, and then sold out to Fred Cramer, one of his employees. Fred now runs express for the C.P.R. The C.N.R. was just coming into Camrose when Mr. Fisher came to the town, and it was then called the Grand Trunk Pacific. He saw the first train come into Camrose

REPORTS, five members of the Jones family, the two Douglas children, five White children, four of the Miller children, and four Solway

### OLD SCHOOL SOLD

The new school was erected in 1938, and the old building sold to the Ladies' Guild and moved to the Dried Meat Lake church grounds, where it is being used as a hall today.

### CHURCH BUILT

The Dried Meat Lake church was built the following year, in 1903, and was one of the first ones east of Wetaskiwin. In the other districts, the church services were held in the homes. Singing was done without the help of an organ, as hardly anyone owned one. First minister to hold service in the new church was Ernest Tait, a theological student who had also helped to build the church.

Hastings Coulee area. This family is still residing in the Viewpoint district

### DR. P. F. SMITH

Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Mutchler, who were Silver Creek residents, recall many incidents and people they came into contact with. Dr. Lamb, of Duhamel, rode many miles on horseback to attend the sick, and Dr. P. F. Smith, of Carmose, rode his buckboard, making his rounds of railroad camps from Camrose to Stettler. He was often seen, a familiar figure, walking with two or three hounds following him. Blue Smith made his regular rounds with always a "howdy" for each homesteader, and a friendly word of advice. One of his sayings remembered by the Mutchlers was his homey advice to the farmers. . . . "A good fence always makes good neighbors".

### DRUGGIST

Albert Martin Sanders, who married Mae Cole, was a well known figure in the district. He had homesteaded north of Lougheed, but did not prove up on it, as an opportunity came his way to enter into apprenticeship as a druggist in the first drug store in Camrose. He served a time of four years' apprenticeship and then took two years' pharmacy. He was associated with I. Z. Hills (Camrose Drug Co.) in the first drug venture, and finally was on his own.

### FIRST LADY CLERK

Mrs. Sanders was one of the first lady clerks and bookkeepers in Camrose, working at the Smith Brothers store. Later she worked in the R. B. Price store, and was in Camrose when the first train came into town.

Mike Hornyka homesteaded the northwest quarter of 34-44-20, having hired someone to break a half acre of prairie sod . . . he cultivated it with a two-year-old heifer (his first animal). He hitched it to a small wooden harrow, and his nine-year-old boy led the heifer around the plot while Mike sat at the edge of the field making extra wooden teeth to replace the ones broken. Breakages occurred quite often.



DRIED MEAT LAKE SCHOOL IN '02

# CHAPTER TWO

WHEREIN IS SHOWN the development of settlement along the Battle River and Dried Meat Lake where a one-time water highway opened up the huge section of the country lying east of Dried Meat Lake and its tributaries. Before the two railway lines were built, the mother settlement of Heather Brae, twelve years ahead of the first railroad, paved the way for further settlement.

## Ohaton... Early Centre

The coming of the C. P. Railway in 1905 saw the establishment of the community of Ohaton, but for eight or ten years previous to that time, bona-fide settlers had been flocking into that area of the district, eight miles south-east of Camrose. Coming up from Kansas at the turn of the century was John August Walline and his wife, who settled near Schneiderville and took out a homestead in Township 45, Range 18, south of the present site of Ohaton. In those early years Mr. Walline, together with K. J. and Ben Larson, travelled around that area as well diggers. The Wallines lived in a dug-out on the bank of Dried Meat Creek in a log shack with a sod roof, dirt floor and log siding. John hired himself out at 40 cents a day for the first while to supplement the meagre seven cents he had arrived with in this district.

Christopher Lemke had emigrated with his parents from Germany in 1889, going to the Clover Bar district, and then coming to Ohaton in 1900 and settling near the Walline homestead. One tragedy marred his early pioneer years when in the winter of '03 he had to journey to Wetaskiwin for supplies. At the same time his young 15-year-old brother had come to the town to visit and proceeded to walk out to the Lemke farm. When he got to within a half mile of the homestead he succumbed to the cold and froze to death. The body was discovered by neighbors, and placed in one of Chris' farm buildings. When the traveller arrived home he found his brother's body, partially chewed by mice. Hitching up the oxen again Chris returned to Wetaskiwin with the remains for burial. Six years later when he married Lillian Rhyason Covey in Camrose he encountered misfortune again, losing his bride's wedding ring in a load of grain, spending all day sifting through the grain without success.

### NEXT THREE YEARS

The next three years, after the turn of the century, saw a much larger influx of settlers pour into the Ohaton area. Many of the names are still familiar ones today. Included among the names of the early settlers are Charles Scheidegger Sr., E. E. Paris, Jarret Core, Jens Ohlsen, K. J. and Ben Larson, Christian Stern, James Mohler, August Wagner, A. W. Fleming, Edward Kremmin and Albert Nelson.

Charles Scheidegger, a Swiss-born cheese maker, came to Ohaton in 1903, filing on a homestead on the north-east quarter of Section 16, Township 46, Range 18. Two of his sons, Walter and Charles, stayed in the district and continued farming, Walter retiring this year and Charles passing away in 1954. Charles Sr., was an

avid gardener, taking special pride also a craftsman, fashioning furniture for all the neighbors and their families.

Jarret Core came to the Ohaton district in 1901, homesteading between Ohaton and Heather Brae. The Green Grove School was later erected about 80 rods from the homestead. Jarret worked in the early days with the C.P.R. on the track building, between Camrose and Hardisty.

South Dakota pioneer, Clarence Hanson, also arrived in '01, settling near the Molstad post office. The earliest homestead memories for Mr. Hanson was the chattering of numerous prairie chickens and the howling of the lonesome coyotes. Earliest supply points for the Hanson family were the Molstad store and Sparling (later Camrose). Mr. Hanson's father had fought on the side of emancipation during the Civil War in the States, having come to the Americas in 1860 from Norway, and sailing across the ocean in a sail boat, the voyage taking 16 weeks.

Iowa contributed many settlers to Ohaton, including Jens Ohlsen and family in 1902. Son Ben was not old enough to file on a homestead that year but on his 18th birthday, shortly after, he rode horseback to Wetaskiwin to file on his homestead. It was the 24th



Walter Scheidegger on his homestead in 1908. A breaking plow can be seen on the left corner of the building.

# Townssite Started in '05



THE OHATON community was established in 1905, although it was not officially incorporated until 1910. The name comes from the merger of three names: Osler, Hammond and Nanton. Previous articles have dealt with the early settlers in this town and district, coming as early as 1900, and still emigrating into the country five years later.

The first early businesses were established between 1905 and 1906, and are listed as follows: Mohler Lumber Yard, in 1905; Tom Brager Grocery Store, in 1905; Ed. Rees Livery Stable, in 1906; Ohaton Hotel by the Lindquist brothers, in 1906; Joe Hardy Blacksmith Shop, in 1906; Lee & Augustine General Store, in 1906, and the Jas. Mohler Elevator, in 1905.

The first church was the Methodist Church, which was moved into Ohaton in 1920 from Skafse, with Rev. J. W. Bell as the first minister. The school was built in 1909, four years after the C.P.R. went through Ohaton. Many of the homesteaders helped to build the railroad grade with their horses

of November, 1904 and the bitter cold forced the aspiring farmer to walk a ways on the trail, then ride horseback, switching from horse to foot to keep from freezing. He located on the north-west section of 30-46-18, collecting his mail at the Skafse post office and supplies at Wetaskiwin. Later Duhamel had a store and finally Ohaton came into being.

Nebraska-raised Carl Larson emigrated to the Ohaton district with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl John Larson in 1902, where he worked on the farm of Dave Morrison of Wetaskiwin, later for August Nyback of Camrose and Ludvig Peterson of Ohaton. He was quite a baseball player in his day and settled on the southwest quarter of 36-46-19.

## SPENT WINTER IN TENT

Another Swiss emigrant, Christian Stern, settled in 1902 in the Molstad district on the southwest quarter of 22-46-18, arriving on October 2nd of that year and living in a tent all winter. They built their house in '03, still owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stern. That winter, the Sterns trapped muskrats and sold the skins in Wetaskiwin for seven and eight cents each. After the Tom Brager store was established, the family were able to buy all their supplies there instead of making the long trek to Wetaskiwin. In 1906 Chris hauled lumber from Wetaskiwin to build the Acme School. His son, Ben, started playing the violin at an early age, graduating to a dance orchestra, known today throughout the country as Ben Stern's orchestra. Ben also played baseball for the Acme Baseball team and was a hockey player as well.

and oxen. The townsite was surveyed in 1905, with James Mohler purchasing the first lot, Lot "A".

Early schools in town and district consisted of the Ohaton School in the village, which was established in 1906; the Horicon school in 1911, two and one-half miles southwest; Green Grove school, three miles southeast of Ohaton, in 1907; and Hampton school, three and one-half miles northeast. First teacher was Cephus Ward, now living in Edmonton.

## EARLY BUSINESSES

Reed's Harness Shop, established by W. G. Reed, was located on Railway Street, later changing its location to Main Street. Mr. Reed had homesteaded in the Tofield district in 1906, working as a carpenter while there. He took the first threshing machine out north of Tofield, and came to Ohaton in 1930, still residing there. He celebrated his 85th. birthday last October. With the growth of the community and the coming of the gas engine to replace horses, and the use of automobiles instead of horses, the harness business passed out of existence. Early store hours were from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m., with coal oil for light.

The General and Hardware Store of Augustine & Lee, which opened in 1906, was operated by John Augustine and Oscar Lee, and was located on the west side of Main Street. The general store was 24 feet by 50 feet and the hardware section measured 24 feet by 50 feet. The two partners sold to Murphy & Patterson, then to L. F. Patterson, next to Tom Shaw, and finally to Oscar Schielke, the present owner.

Hardy's Blacksmith Shop, a frame constructed building erected in 1906, was located on the east side of Main Street, closing out in 1908.

On the north side of Railway Street was located the Rees Livery Stable, erected in 1906. Ed. Rees was a homesteader in the Heather Brae district, selling out his business later to Wm. Hillaby, then Clyde Thomas, now of Edmonton, purchased the business, closing it out in 1940.

On the corner of Main and Railway street was the Lindquist Hotel and boarding house, built by Andrew and John Lindquist in 1906. The business changed hands several times, finally being destroyed by fire around 1930.

The Mohler Elevator, built in 1905 by James and J. W. Mohler was located on the C.P.R. right of way, was first a frame building, and the new one constructed in 1916 was crib construction. Business hours were around the clock. The business is still operating under a different name.

The Mohler Flour Mill was added to the elevator in 1943 by James and Albert Donald Mohler, later selling out to A. D. Mohler and Wm. Stuve, then back to A. D. Mohler and later to Byers Flour

Mill. The elevator is still operating but the mill closed in 1947.

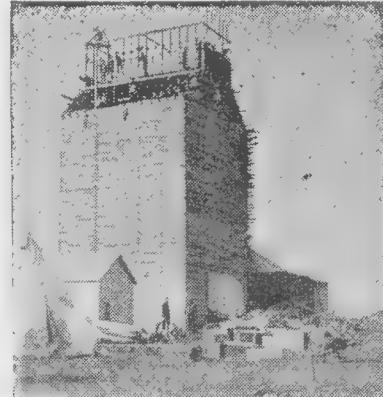
On the west side of main street the Ness Hardware building was erected in 1906 by Mr. Ness, a homesteader who started the business when the C.P.R. came through Ohaton. It was a frame building about 24 feet by 40 feet, which finally burned down in or around 1928.

Tom Brager's General Store was located on lot 21, block 2, and was built in 1905 by Tom Brager. He was an early homesteader and freighted most of his early stock. His hours were "all hours" and finally he closed out the store in 1908, moving it to his home buildings on his homestead.

Railway street was the location of the Lumber Yard built in 1905 by J. W. and James Mohler, later sold to D. A. Hart. This was the first business in Ohaton, and business improved as the country was settled. The store was lighted with coal oil lamps and maintained very flexible hours, any time and all the time. The business was finally closed out in 1920.

Mr. Elliott was the first postmaster in Ohaton, owning one of the first stores and keeping the post office in back of the store. Mrs. Dowling was employed in that store.

A sister, Miss Elliott, is remembered as taking an active part in the development of the town, also working in the store. There was also a telephone office with a small switchboard.



Mohler's independently owned elevator, featuring a mule-drawn lift.

## Too Young To Stake



ALTER C. Scheidegger was too young for filing on a homestead when he came with his parents to the Ohaton district but worked on the C.P.R. survey from Camrose to Hardisty in the winter of '05 and '06. Later he continued the survey on to Stettler, which at that time was a sod shack on the homestead of Carl Stettler and family. Walter recalls the family

well, especially the piano and homesteaders' supplies sold by the family. For thirty dollars a month he served as bull cook in the railway camp, rising at 4 a.m., in 30 to 52 below zero weather to bake bread for the crew of 21 men. In 1908 he took out his homestead, and recalls well a dance hall on Dried Meat Hill, built by Carl Wabel, where dancing went on until daybreak.

Carl Larson spoke with vivid recollection of the mosquitoes in the country in 1903, when smudges had to be kept continually to prevent the livestock from stampeding.

When E. E. Paris came out from Iowa with the James W. Mohler family in 1903, he spent the spring with Sherman Fox, locating his homestead and gathering equipment to start farming. That summer he built a sod and log house on the land, located on the south-east quarter of Section 20-46-19. He lived there for a few years and after an injury in a runaway, he worked in the lumber yard in Ohaton. He then bought the quarter directly south of the homestead and kept sheep for a number of years.

Although James W. Mohler homesteaded in the Round Hill district on the south-east quarter of 34-48-18 he came to Ohaton in 1906 and started the first lumber and grain business there. In his homestead days Duhamel was the closest Post Office, then Bardo, and finally Round Hill.

On the 20th of March, 1901, Joseph L. Hamren arrived from Iowa, landing in Wetaskiwin, which was the end of the steel. In 1904 he took out a homestead on the south-east quarter of 34-45-19. In the fall of '06 the grain froze, snow fell in abundance, and he kept himself employed stacking frozen wheat on the John Holly farm in the Albury district. As his son, J. B. Hamren recalls, in the winter of 1906-07 the snow was so deep that the rabbits ate the tops of the willows . . . even up to six and eight feet high. Brush areas drifted full and cattle starved and froze to death. Wetaskiwin being the nearest supply point for two years and some forty miles distant, Mr. Hamren freighted many loads of goods for Charlie Valentine's store at Heather Brae. In summer the wagons would mire in soft spots on the trail and goods would have to be carried out of the wagon to dry ground. Extra cash was also picked up by going out and breaking land for other settlers at \$3 per acre, using three horses.

Delbert A. Hart, another Iowa pioneer and brother-in-law to E. E. Paris, homesteaded on the south-east quarter of 18-46-19, overlooking the School District of Willow Hill. While proving up on this homestead he lived on Section 16, on a farm he had purchased in 1902, having been up in '01 and '02 on visits. He became associated in the lumber business with A. W. Fleming, and the livestock business with Frank McIlveen of the Daysland district.



James Mohler writes about this building that was the first station in Ohaton. He is standing in front looking quite pleased with prospects for the future of the town.

## Second Start at Ohaton

James Mohler came with his family to Wetaskiwin in the early Spring of 1903 and trekked up to the homestead north of Round Hill. Several years later he joined his father in a lumber business in Wetaskiwin for a year. In 1905 he made his second start in Ohaton, remaining there to the present day. Following are excerpts of his experiences, as he wrote them, the remainder of which can be found in the section on Round Hill.

In 1905 the lumberyard at Wetaskiwin having been disposed of, we decided to start another at Ohaton. The lumber was ordered and as soon as it arrived, Mrs. Mohler and I moved to Ohaton. Having no house to move into we boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Jens Ohlsen (father and mother of Ben Ohlsen's) who lived a mile from the townsite.

### ELEVATOR

When there was lumber enough in, we built the office for the lumberyard and moved in, and lived in the office the first winter. We next built the small elevator, and had it ready for taking in grain that fall. We called it an elevator but "shoveler" would have been more appropriate. We had to shovel all the grain in, and shovel it out. Before spring I built a box on skids which we hauled to the top with a team of mules, but it still had to be shoveled out. A year later a tread power was installed, run by a horse and a mule. The mule got cute and used to sit on the cross bar behind him and stop the mill. We had to string a piece of barb wire behind him to keep him walking.

### OTHER SETTLERS

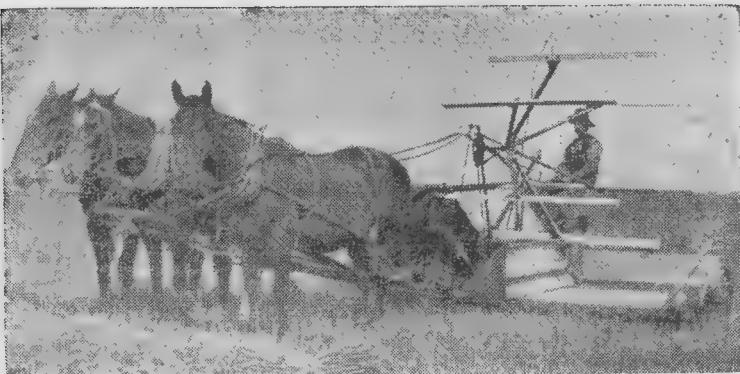
The first years, Ohaton was sort of an isolated place as far as neighbors were concerned. Three miles to the north were the Nelson's and the Hardy's on the Cor-

rection Line, and Mr. Wagner (Mrs. H. J. Dowling's father) was two miles to the northeast. Three miles south were the Marleau's and the Walkemeyer's. On the west was E. E. Paris (where Mark Scheidegger now lives), Trevelyn Solflet and a man by the name of Folk (where Bud Roose now lives). On the east were the Scheidegger's and the Stern's. After Mrs. Mohler took up residence in Ohaton she never saw a woman's face for over six months. Our office was not too big, but quite often I have seen the floor covered with people sleeping on it with their feet under our bed. They would be caught in a storm or had trouble getting in, making it too late for them to go home. The office was sort of a hotel and rooming house at times, but in those days no one was turned away. I have often wondered that Mrs. Mohler did not take the first train out.

In the summer of 1906, I built a house on the three acres of land south of the railroad (the Herman Jacob's now live in it—it was moved onto the townsite by the N. Bawlf Grain Co.). It was just nicely cleaned up and we had moved in, when D. A. Hart came to visit his brother-in-law, E. E. Paris, and bought our lumberyard and the house. What a disappointment for Mrs. Mohler!

### TRAILS BURIED IN SNOW

When the Hart's arrived we had to move into what was known then



Horse-drawn binder on the Scheidegger homestead using a team of horses and a single.

as the Fenner house, now occupied by the Jim Sheets family. At that time it was just a shell with two-ply boards and tarpaper between.

#### BUILDING IN OHATON

The hotel was built in the summer of 1906 by the Lindquist brothers and either that year, or in 1907, a Mr. Rees built a house and livery barn. The house is now occupied by the Oral Nelson family. Mr. Tom Brager built a small store, just north of where the Ohaton store now stands. This was later sold to a preacher by the name of Willoughby, who ran the store for a year or two. It was later sold to my father, who built it into the house now occupied by the Hugh Sheets family. The next store was built by Oscar Lee and John Augustine on the site now occupied by the Ohaton General Store. Next was a hardware store built by Mr. Ness, who homesteaded northeast of Ohaton. Both these stores were about twice the size of our present Ohaton store.

Between these two stores, Mr. August Miller erected a two-storey building, which was a pool hall below and a dance hall above. He also used to serve lunches in the back. Across the street, and on the site now occupied by the Dowling residence, Jake Waunch built a blacksmith shop. South of this was a cream station for a while, and our present school was built about 1909.

The farmers built a small elevator on the site where the Alberta Pacific now stands and this was later sold to the N. Bawlf Grain Company who built the present Alberta Pacific house, and about ten years later the Alberta Pool came in.

Mr. A. W. Fleming moved to Ohaton about 1907 and built the house now occupied by the E. Wagner family. The Webb and Core families came in later, and Mr. Ward built the house just across from the school house.

After Mr. Waunch gave up blacksmithing, O. N. and Chas. Hanmer had a small shop for a few years. The present church was moved in from a site about four miles west of Ohaton, I believe it was then called Skafse.

#### START OF DOWNFALL

The J. Augustine store was later taken over by Murphy and Patterson, and then by Patterson. The livery barn was bought by Will

Hillaby and then by Clyde Thomas. The Ness store was taken over by Mr. Roddis and the hotel changed hands several times. Mr. Garvin and Mr. Paul were two of the owners. The lumberyard was sold to the present Beaver Lumber Co. and moved to Camrose. This seemed to be the start of the downfall of Ohaton. The two stores and pool room burned down, and the last owner of the hotel hired a man to set fire to it for the insurance, both serving time for it later. It made a spectacular blaze, burning from the top down, but it was a sad blow for Ohaton. Mr. Patterson rebuilt his store, but the rest never came back. The Merchants Bank had a branch in Ohaton along about the years 1919 and 1920, but this was closed up later.

#### BACK TO OHATON

From there on, things at the ranch were a matter of routine for a couple of years. I think it was in 1911, Father and Mother decided to spend the winter in California and we moved back to Ohaton and took over the elevator. Father had built the house, where Hugh Sheets now lives, while we were at the ranch, and we moved into it when my folks went south.

The next spring I thought I would like to build an elevator further east on the C.P.R. and I secured an elevator site at Cadogan, but when I got home I had a chance to buy the southwest quarter of 23-46-19 and plot "A" in the townsite of Ohaton, and took this instead. We moved a small shack down from our north place and lived in that until we had our new house built. This sort of ended our moving for a while, and Mrs. Mohler was a tickled woman!

I continued running the elevator in the winter and broke the land in the summer. Some summers I would be breaking the Ohaton farm and some summers on the old home place. Sometimes Mrs. Mohler would go north with me but usually she stayed at Ohaton.

#### THRESHING

In September, 1913, my son, A. D. Mohler was born in the house he now owns on plot "A" in Ohaton. As we had the threshers at the time, it was a busy time both inside and outside of the house, but everything seemed to go fine. Threshing in those days was not done with a combine and two or three man outfit, but with a 27

man outfit. Ten bundle teams, four field pitchers, two spike pitchers, one engineer, one fireman, one water monkey, six grain haulers and two bosses, besides two or three of us in the elevator. There were no bakeries to run to, and I have seen Mrs. Mohler with a hundred and fifty loaves of bread baked before the threshers arrived. We generally killed a beef or a couple of pigs, and if we saw we were going to run short of meat we would make a raid on the chicken coop. At first Mrs. Mohler would set the pie on the table in the plates it was cooked with a long arm who thought all in, but there was always someone the pie was made for him, so that he had to be stopped, otherwise some bashful boy went without.

#### OHATON IN GRAIN TRADE

If I remember correctly, our school was built in 1909, and it still stands. We had school before this, the first classes being held in the Ed. Rees house (now occupied by the Oral Nelson family), and I think there was another building used before the school was built.

It was in 1916 when more grain was being raised that I built my new elevator. About that time, Ohaton was doing a good business in all lines. We had a big territory to draw from, which extended as far south as the present Edborg and Donalda districts, and north to Round Hill. We had no bank, but all grain cheques were cashed by John Augustine, who had the general store then. It was nothing to walk in and see from five to ten thousand dollars lying on his desk.

#### STORE OWNER AND BANKER

The Merchant's Bank at Camrose was our closest bank and hundreds of times I have seen Mr. Augustine sit down and endorse five or six thousand dollars worth of cheques and hand them to someone who would be going to the bank, and say: "Bring me back the cash". Mr. Augustine was an old man and he slept alone in the store. What easy prey he would have been for present-day thugs! His store was never broken into to my knowledge.

#### NEW STATION HOUSE

Ohaton was not always blessed with a nice station. For a few years we had a boxcar for a depot. When business got better, we pestered the railroad for a good station, until one day the officials drifted in and called a meeting of the businessmen. They told us, and we agreed to it, that if we would wait another year they would put in a good station . . . and they did. There is a branch railroad line surveyed southeast from Ohaton and I think at that time they had high hopes of building this line. Hence the good station.

#### HUNTERS' PARADISE

Coyote hunting in the early days was a good pastime, as it is today, only we used horses instead of automobiles. We would gather in the streets of Ohaton about ten o'clock on Sunday mornings and many a small wager was made as to whose horse or dog would be at the killing first.

# Oldest Bawlf Resident 83 Years. Tells Story

The oldest living resident of the town of Bawlf, S. T. Wetterberg, now in his 83rd year, tells of the beginnings of Bawlf. "Bawlf first came into being in 1904, and sprang up like a clump of flowers when it became rumored that the C.P.R. grading had begun east from Wetaskiwin, extending towards Camrose and Bawlf east. Bawlf at once became very active in building and preparing for business when the first rails would be laid."

The townsit of Bawlf was laid out in August of 1905 and occupied the southwest quarter of Section 31, township 45, range 17, being 43 miles southeast of Wetaskiwin. It took the railway from 1904 when the first rails were laid out of Wetaskiwin until 1906 when the first train arrived at the Bawlf station.

In the meantime the town had begun to prepare for the location of businesses and the settlement of its property. Shortly the station arrived, loaded on a flatcar, followed later by an old boxcar "looking like a picture of Noah's Ark". C. B. Barnes became the first station agent, the real station being completed in about 1908. The new station contained rooms for freight, express and living section, and was quite a progressive addition to the town. That same year, 1908, the railway line was completed to Hardisty and a regular passenger service twice daily went into effect, besides the freight, and in 1909 through connections to Winnipeg via Saskatoon were completed.

## STATION

Mr. Stewart, who was living on a homestead near Killam had received the contract for the building of the new station, and it has been said that he often walked

from his home to Bawlf to do the job. Mr. Stewart in later years became a member of the Dominion Liberal Government and served with the government in various ways until the time of his death.

By the time that the first train arrived, Bawlf was fairly well established.

## NICHOLAS BAWLF

The townsit was named by the C.P.R. in honor of Nicholas Bawlf, then president of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

The first train arrived into Bawlf in 1906, and in 1907 A. B. Scovil came to the town with the intention of establishing a newspaper. He set up shop and published the first paper, with the first copy of The Bawlf Sun being printed on August 16, 1907. The paper contains the advertisements of most of the businessmen at that time.

## 1907 BUSINESSES

Included in this list of businesses are the following:

Marshall & Gabb, established in 1906  
Camrose Lumber and Grain Co,  
Eggen & Olesberg Real Estate,  
O. Molstad, Post Office,  
C. W. Gardner, General Store,  
O. H. Anderson, General Store,

T. Thirsk, General Store,  
M. E. Tookey Hardware and Lumber  
Bawlf Pharmacy, J. C. Poulsen,  
Olson Mrs., Livery and Feed,  
R. H. Anderson, Livery and Sales,  
McGee Bros., Blacksmiths,  
O. Molstad Building and Contracting,  
Martin Molstad, Boarding House,  
Canadian Bank of Commerce, W.  
H. Harrison, Mgr.  
H. C. Sparby, Restaurant.

## DUNCAN McCALL

The townsit was located upon land owned by Gilbert Hanson, joining his homestead to the south. As soon as the school district was formed the trustees of the district had a good two-storey school building erected and completed, with Duncan McCall as the first teacher.

A Board of Trade was established with W. H. Harrison as president, B. A. Scovil as secretary-treasurer and K. O. Eggen, M. E. Tookey, W. A. Gabb forming the council.

## BANKS RACE FOR LOCATION

The Bank of Commerce, strictly speaking, was the second bank in town, as the Merchant's Bank of Camrose opened up for one day only and the Northern Bank came in, by morning the Commerce had located quarters and had a sign up before the Northern got around. Consequently the Merchant's and Northern people pulled out. A fine building was completed in the winter of 1907 by the Commerce, with W. T. Harrison as manager, T. Hewitt as Teller and M. Dickson as ledger-keeper.

## FIRST SETTLERS—1892

The first settlers in the Bawlf district, as published by Mr. Scovil in the Sun gives Mr. A. T. Schnider and Thomas Brown credit as the very first settlers in the district. Mr. Schnider arrived in 1892 and settled upon Dried Meat Creek, close to Dried Meat Lake. He later moved on a homestead four miles south of Bawlf where he ventured into the horse and cattle business.

Thomas Brown was also upon a place north of Bawlf and was also there at the time that A. T. Schnider came to the area. Where these two gentlemen originated is not known but they often mentioned that no water was to be had short of Dried Meat Lake and Beaver Lake near Tofield, during the then dry years.

The first settlers as published by the first Sun included a few others that could not at this time be counted in this district but Bawlf was still their trading center. A. Wable is said to have arrived in 1893, settling in or about Heather Brae. C. David ranched close to Dried Meat Lake and came into the country about the same time. Also in the area was C. Valentine, Ludwig Pederson and S. T. Wetterberg who all came in 1902, L. S. Macdonald, Bob Crawford, A. Smith, L. Muller, J. Scott and J. Deverall.



Endurance Plus In Ox-Power



Dr. McEachern's hospital at Bawlf, which had his office adjoining. This was the first hospital in the area between Wetaskiwin and Saskatoon.

## Heather Brae Store Broke Wetaskiwin Trek

Long before the townsite was established, settlers flocked into the Bawlf area in search of homesteads. Charles Ray McKay came to the Albury district and took out his homestead on what is now known as the Bob Cowie place. As he recalls, there were very few people in that district when he came in 1901, but the J. B. Scott's, Ben Reid, the Dingman's, Sherman Fox and John Deverell were already established. Mrs. Fox put him up, as she did many other settlers, soon after he was settled the Cal Potter, George Batke, Charles Hunsley and Charlie Batke families came up and took up their homesteads. Every quarter for miles was taken up, for at least 15 or more miles east. In the spring when Jack Welch, Bill Welch and their parents came, they had to go near Ferry Point.

### RAFTED LAKE

In the spring of 1902 Charlie Valentine started up a small store and post office at Heather Brae to serve the residents who hitherto had been trekking to Wetaskiwin. Mrs. Charles McKay remembers the spring of '02 when there was a steady downpour of rain for many days, filling the small creeks to river proportions, and making the river look like a lake. Travel was impossible by team so Mr. Valentine made a raft to travel up Dried Meat Lake with, taking the passengers to within a few miles of Wetaskiwin. Her garden that year was on spring breaking, and although she could get enough dirt

to cover the small seeds there was not enough to cover the corn and potatoes. She solved that problem by driving a stick in to make a hole and then pushing the seeds in. That was their first year on the homestead and in spite of the wet weather she raised a good garden and her husband a good crop of oats on the land he had broken.

### Stopping Places Tided The Settlers Over

Gilbert Hanson owned the land that later became the Bawlf townsite. Together with his daughter, Mrs. Sanden and Gerald, he arrived from South Dakota in 1902. K. O. Egen, E. O. Olesberg, Pat Creden, O. R. Olson and J. Somervold all arrived in 1903. Oliver and Ole Rognes and Mrs. Rognes' son and two daughters all arrived in 1904. Erick and Knute Larson in 1902, had first settled in the New Norway district. Arnt Mosand, T. Krogstad and Ole Krogstad came in 1903. In 1904 there were John Selnes, P. O. Paulson, Ben Paul-

son, L. Selby, M. O. Erickson, E. Olesberg, M. Loken, M. M. Berquist, P. A. Peterson, Pete Sondflow, Pete Iverson and P. Hilland. Also in the area were Alex Piro, Mike Molacka, John Teloska, John Walline and Mr. Sharuga who had come earlier in '02 or '03. Records also show that the same years the Smolick brothers, Oscar Olafson, Thomas Hagen, Mike Uglem, Ole Hoem, and Art Zimmerman and his parents were already settled. John Kadine came in 1903.

### MASTER TEAMSTER

John was a master oxen teamster, but according to local tales he never trained them to stay tied to a fence post during the cold weather. One time while John was having a little rest in the recreation rooms in town they made a bee-line for home on the run, leaving John a pleasant walk of seven miles back home across the country. John would call his oxen bad names but they were not there to hear them. As was the case in most areas, oxen furnished much of the transportation.

The surrounding district around Bawlf was well represented by many types of settlers, Scandinavian from North and South Dakotas, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska and the Pacific Coast States. There was also a good representation from Roumania, Austria and Poland who settled the area.

Gerald Sanden arrived in Bawlf in 1902 with his widowed mother and her parents, who had come directly from South Dakota. His mother operated a 'stopping-place' where Bawlf now stands. The family had seen many Indians on the warpath in South Dakota when Gerald would have been about 5

# Hospital Construction Done by O. Molstad

After a meeting held to discuss the advisability of the erection of a hospital, a stock company was formed and recommended. The shareholders immediately applied for a charter, which was granted, and in the meantime plans were formed to begin work.

## SERVED LARGE AREA

A neat and commodious building on Alberta Avenue, west of the school was built and reflected great credit upon the designer and builder, O. Molstad.

Downstairs were the office, open wash room, pantry and nurses' wash room, pantry and nurses' apartments. Upstairs were four private nursing rooms, a general ward, closets and a hall. The officers of the first board were Dr. McEacheran, president, W. B. Gabs, secretary-treasurer. M. J. Tookey, C. Valentine, O. R. Olson and T. Hagen as directors. Dr. I. W. T. McEacheran came to the town from Ontario in 1907, and established his first office in the back of J. C. Poulsen's Drug Store. He became a very busy man from the start, covering a territory extending as far south as Donalda, Meeting Creek and Ferry Point and Edberg, east to Daysland, Strome, Killam and Sedgewick, as well as north to Ryley, Holden and Round Hill districts. He used a livery team part time, with a driver other times. He often went alone over the bleak covered trails and deep snow drifts that many

years old.

## SETTLERS SURVIVE FIRES

In 1904 Oskar Olofson came out to the district northwest of Bawlf and filed on the northeast quarter of 24-46-17. The first winters he worked out for \$10 per month while Mrs. Olofson and small son Olof remained on the homestead. The spring prairie fire in 1906 destroyed their barn and seed oats. Mrs. Olofson and children had to lay face down on the little patch of breaking until the fire passed over.

Edwin T. Spoklie came from Minnesota in 1904 and settled on the southwest of 6-46-17, in the vicinity of the Molstad post office. He was later associated with E. Olesberg in the Meat Market at Bawlf.

Ole Loken's parents had emigrated from Norway in 1900, going to the Minnesota's and later coming to Alberta in 1905. He settled in the Bawlf district on the northwest of 12-46-17. He had worked in a lumber camp in B.C., previous to filing, arriving in Bawlf in 1907 and hiring a team and livery to drive him to his homestead. There was so much snow that year that the horses couldn't make it all the way. Ole walked the last mile and a half with all his supplies. Winters he spent in B.C., at the lumber camps and in summer he worked on the railroad.

times upset him in the snow. He would arrive often during the night, chilled and frozen, then turning around and going out again on another call.

## BRASS BAND

Much credit was given to O. E. Olesberg for getting the band together and starting them along on the musical road, with H. Berness as their leader. Leadership later fell to Geo. Philpott. Band members were O. E. Olesberg, Frank McIlveen, B. Hewitt, M. Molstad, B. A. Scovil, Vick Johnson, Chris Goolis, C. A. Davidson, P. O. Poulsen, E. C. Hardy, M. Hardy, K. O. Eggen and H. Huron. B. A. Scovil acted as secretary-treasurer. The dances given under the auspices of the band were a decided factor in the social life of the town and district.

## TENNIS CLUB

The Bawlf Tennis Club was organized through the co-operation of Marshall and Gabb, who allowed them to use one of their lots, and two very fine courts were built.

## UNION HOTEL

The Union Hotel, an imposing 3-storey edifice, was claimed to be one of the best hotels outside of the larger cities of the province. It was built by Bob Mutch under his personal supervision, after which Jas. Kadlic the first proprietors, sold it to Marshall and Gabb. These two men improved the appearance of the place on the inside and new wall paper and furnishings were selected. A new chef was another major improvement. The proprietors, said the Sun, were fortunate in having two good waitresses, Miss Rule and Miss Logan. These two young ladies were assisted in their duties by Miss Selness. The Hotel was also noted for its quality of beer, liquors and cigars. Tom Tate, in his immaculate white uniform was a sight

to behold as he stood, "monarch of all he surveyed behind the polished oak in the refreshment parlor."

The town boasted a good post office that was built and run by O. Molstad who was assisted by his wife. In 1913 a big fire swept through Bawlf, taking the post office in its path. A total of 5 businesses were destroyed in this fire.

Early in the history of the town a creamery was built upon land donated by Gilbert Hanson south of the railroad tracks. Business flourished, and early in its history turned out 30,000 pounds of choice butter were turned out. B. E. Grove was the first butter maker, later being taken over by Charlie Gray. M. E. Tookey was president of the association, with K. O. Eggen as secretary-treasurer and E. T. Saby, Chas. Beerns, O. E. Olesberg, O. Molstad, C. Valentine and Gilbert Hanson as directors.

C. Valentine had the first Hardware store which was later purchased by Fraser & Kirkpatrick in 1906.

Bawlf had two elevators for buying grain, namely the Pacific Grain, and one built by a Mr. Rabitt of the Daysland district. In about 1906 very little grain was produced, but business soon picked up. Frank McIlveen was the first grain buyer for Mr. Rabitt.

S. T. Wetterberg first came to Bawlf in 1906 after living at Old Duhamel and also upon a home-stead on the township line six miles east of Camrose. He became a bookkeeper in O. H. Anderson's store and an agent for John Deere Farm Implements.

As recalled by Mr. Wetterberg, the farmers would come to town late at night from Meeting Creek, Edberg and Donalda points, sometimes with a load of oats. They would come to the stores leaving their orders to be put up for them so they could get an early start for their homes the following day. People came from as far away as Holden, Ryley, and Round Hill to do their trading. Store hours were

## Children's Parade In Bawlf



## Fires Kill Rabbits

Coming into the district in the next year were Henry Birkness, the Youngbergs and their sons, S. T. Wetterberg, E. T. Saby and the Sandens, all settling in the Bawlf area.

### RABBITS FLEE FIRE

Henry Birkness settled on the northwest of 12-47-18 where his nearest post office at the time was at Molstad. His son, Harold, married Miss Sadie Saboe who was also raised in the Bawlf district, coming with her parents to south of Bawlf in 1902. Her vivid recollections concern an early prairie fire when the grass had grown to over two feet high. They were fortunate in that they had a field of summer fallow in front of the house, but the rabbits, fleeing before the fire, were so thick that they took to the field and ran up against the house in their frenzied efforts to reach safety. The animals were badly burned.

### ACME SCHOOL RAISED

The Olaf Youngbergs arrived on the Fourth of July and settled on the northeast quarter of 10-46-18 in what was called the Acme district. They had just got their tent pitched when Hattie Saby came riding over on horseback to invite the family to a celebration at their home for the Glorious Fourth. It was the first time that young August Youngberg had seen people dance and he thought it was very amusing. The Saby young folks supplied the music for dancing. The following year the Youngberg family was very glad to see more settlers arriving, including the Peter Hansons, C. Sterns, Hans Hanson and the Schiedeggers. Olaf Youngberg was a blacksmith by trade. In 1903 the family watched the Acme School raised and in 1906 were to witness the start of Bawlf.

S. T. Wetterberg came to Wetskiwin in 1902, staying there for a short time, then he went to what was known as Old Duhamel, situated upon the river bank. George and Norman Smith owned the trading post at the site which was the only store there at the time.

Thomas Shea was the Hotel manager and A. W. Hardy was the blacksmith.

### "BLUE" SMITH

"Blue" Smith was stationed with the R.N.W.M.P. Duhamel served as a trading post for all the country in four directions, and Wetterberg became very friendly with "Blue" Smith and his family. He recalls Mr. Smith riding his horse over the cold and bleak country to the far north, being gone for days at a time and camping out of doors whenever he ran out of a stopping place.

Wetterberg filed on a homestead on the township line six miles east of where Camrose is now located. After completing his homestead duties he came to Bawlf in 1907. While he was still on the homestead he became a road overseer and hacked down the brush from where the Hampton School is now located

## BAWL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL — 1909



Peter Olafson of Rosebush, who had been a teacher in Norway, filled-in in many of the early parochial schools. Mr. Olafson was a kindly man, who maintained good discipline as can be seen in the model faces of these children.

## Local Men Mine Coal



OF PARAMOUNT importance to the development of the town of Bawlf was the Bawlf Collieries Limited, a firm which commenced in the fall of 1910 to mine coal on an extensive property secured 2 miles west of the town. It was in the process of well digging for a homesteader that a find of coal was made. A coal expert was called in who declared the coal to be six per cent better than the semi-hard coal of the Galt mines at Lethbridge. So interested did he become that it was not long before a gang of prospectors were on the spot and a succession of tests were made.

The results were most favorable and a bore hole drilled showed

He also did the first road grading over this same ground the following spring. He unloaded the first steam threshing outfit ever shipped to Camrose and delivered it into the Kingman district where he threshed as far north as Tofield and Round Hill.

### SAW CHICAGO FIRE

Coming to Bawlf in 1907 he was induced by O. H. Anderson to take over the bookkeeping in the store erected the previous year. He was with him for three years, later becoming a partner with Thirsk and Sons, when the new brick building had been completed. Later he started a store on his own, forming a limited company with his immediate family. His parents had come from Sweden to the United States during the time of the Civil War and the family lived in Chicago at the time of the great fire in 1871.

that the coal was in two seams below the surface, the first seam was over nine feet thick with the second seam a deeper depth measuring just about eleven feet. Exhaustive tests revealed that approximately 10,000,000 tons of coal lay under one section of land.

1910

The research work occupied several months and finally led to the formation in the early spring of '10 of the Bawlf Collieries, Ltd., of which the directors were as follows—W. K. Clark, as president; A. P. Coe as first vice-president and general manager; I. W. T. McEachran as second vice-president; K. O. Eggen as third vice-president and P. R. Thompson as secretary-treasurer. The company was composed entirely of Bawlf business men and the first installment of capital was raised in Bawlf.

### SPUR LINE

In late September of that year the mine began the regular output of coal. The management thought at first that the question of railway transportation could be arranged with ease, but in this they were mistaken. For weeks the product was hauled in wagons and sleighs to the Bawlf railway station where cars were drawn up along the siding for loading. Three months later a spur line 5,000 feet long, was built to the mouth of the mine.

When the spur line was established the output reached four car-loads per day with the first shift having a capacity of 500 tons per day. Around 100 miners were employed and night and day shifts were run. The coal was very compact in the seams and very little timbering was necessary.

# Top CPR Shipping Town in 1909

Bawlf grew steadily in the first ten years, not because it had been forced upon the attention of investors and speculators and not because it had been boomed by land owners or grafters, but the surroundings gave the townsite a favored position. In addition to the rich grain growing soil and the abundance of cattle land, the proximity of coal made development in that direction an additional boost for the town.

Within four years after the town's inception, the Local Improvement District had accomplished considerable road grading and bridge building in the rural districts. There was enough actual farm land in each quarter section to meet the needs for agricultural purposes, and enough wild or un-tilled land in the district that could be farmed at very little additional expense. Sufficient timber was available for fuel as well as protection for stock. The supply of coal was considered inexhaustable, with deposits found near the surface of the soil. The coal areas were found along the banks of the Battle River, which winds through the district fifteen miles south of Bawlf.

Bawlf was less than five years old when regular passenger and freight trains were running daily between Edmonton and Winnipeg and Bawlf headed the list in local freight shipments of beef cattle, compared with other towns within a radius of many miles.

## TOP C.P.R. TOWN

By statistics contained in the annual report of the Department of

Agriculture of the Province of Alberta for the year 1909, Bawlf headed the list of towns on the C.P.R. east of Wetaskiwin in cattle shipments and was a very close contender to the other larger towns in the province. The number of cattle shipped to the Eastern market from Bawlf in 1909 was 365, while there were no shipments to the Eastern market from either Camrose, Daysland, Strome or Sedgewick.

Shipments from Bawlf to markets in Alberta totalled 1,290 head while from Camrose there were only 548, from Daysland 323, from Ohaton 417, and from Strome 192.

The total shipments from Bawlf in 1909 aggregated 1,601 head, which was 182 more head than were shipped from Camrose, Daysland, Strome and Sedgewick combined. It is noticed that in the year 1908 Bawlf had more shipments of cattle than any two towns on the C.P.R. west of Wetaskiwin, and the figures for 1909 show in themselves the increase that took place in one year.

From figures of 1910, Bawlf shipped over 1,000 head in October and November with two whole train-

loads of that number exported.

The above figures give some indication of the importance of the district tributary to Bawlf in the cattle raising industry in the first years. Mixed farming and cattle raising went hand in hand.

## HOSPITAL

One of the most conspicuous enterprises from the public standpoint located early in Bawlf, was the Bawlf Public Hospital, which was built and opened in 1906. From the very beginning the importance and necessity of the institution had been manifest, and in 1909 it was found that the building was far too small to meet the requirements. The building was doubled in size that year and instead of two nurses it was found necessary to engage four nurses. The hospital after enlargement, accommodated thirty patients.

## FIRE PROTECTION

In 1911 the town council endeavored to increase their fire protection and ordered a chemical engine and the necessary equipment. Two water storage tanks were located underground at two central points on Main Street, each with

## PAULSON DRUG STORE IN BAWLF



Dr. McEachern's first office was in the rear of this store.

a holding capacity of 150 barrels of water. The equipment came into good use in 1913 when a \$50,000 fire wiped out five businesses on Main Street.

The fire originated in the offices of the Bawlf Sun, operated by A. L. Eastly (whose son now operates the Sedgewick Community Press). An electrical storm passed over the district at the same time and local citizens blamed lightning for the blaze. Buildings destroyed by the fire were the Edmonton City Dairy Company who were in a rented building, T. Saby Pool Hall, the Post Office building, Real Estate Office of Dultman and Sutherland, K. O. Eggen Office Building and the premises of the Bawlf Sun.

The fire reached such an intensity that the plate glass windows on the opposite side of the street in the building belonging to Thirsk & Sons and J. C. Poulsen were badly cracked. The fire struck the town a crippling blow.

#### PHONES

In 1911 there were 32 phones in the Bawlf local exchange and 30 on the rural lines in the farmers' homes out as far as fifteen miles. That year the provincial government built another rural line

## Sports Day, Showing the Hotel In Bawlf



bringing more residents into communication with the town.

Bawlf citizens worshipped at 4 churches, the pulpits of which were filled by Rev. S. L. Klyve of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Rev. C. R. A. Dutton of the Methodist Church, Rev. H. E. Elliott of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. T. O. Herzer of the German Lutheran.

## BAWLF BASEBALL TEAM — 1907



Back row; Adolph Sabee, Ray Bronson, Anton Jackson, Neils McGee. Second row: Orlen Paulson, Ludwick Aker, Ralph Smith. Front: Art Jackson, Casper Hendel and Ted Paulson. Ralph Smith was the well known, one-armed pitcher from Donalda. R. H. Tone, possessor of this picture, batched with Smith on the homestead south of Bawlf in 1903 and recalls vividly the excellent ball his partner played.

## Produce Company Ships Butter

The Alberta Produce Company was established on May 1, 1910, composed of O. C. Skow and E. Torgeson. Their first eight months of business the company shipped 100,000 pounds of butter and handled on the average of 50 cases of eggs per week. The firm was also in the market for all kinds of produce, including grain.

Six years after the inception of the town the streets were busy with farmers marketing their grain in the daytime and the miners from the Bawlf Collieries coming to town to make their purchases. By this time the town boasted of over 36 established businesses which included 4 general stores, 3 hardware stores; 2 tin shops; a harness shop; 2 livery barns; a blacksmith shop; 2 furniture stores; a butcher shop; a stationery store; a drug store; a doctor; a barber; 2 pool halls; 2 hotels; a licensed bar; 2 lumber yards; 2 implement agencies; a jewellery store; a tailor shop; a newspaper and job shop; a bank and 2 elevators, that of the Alberta Grain Company on the usual elevator siding while the Barrard Grain Company had their elevator located at the junction of the trails leading to town, having built their own spur line.

E. T. Saby came from South Dakota in 1902 and settled some three miles northwest from the townsite of Bawlf, together with his son Thomas, who acted as a land guide for other early settlers. Mr. Saby's home became the stopping place along the trail leading from Wetaskiwin, east for fifty miles. It also became the headquarters for the C.P.R. survey crews surveying the line that was to be built.

Mr. O. Molstad had the first Post Office which was also located a short distance from the Saby homestead.

# Daysland...Fathered by E. W. Day

VIEW FROM RAILWAY STREET — 1912



The offices of the Daysland Press clearly visible in the front center. Left background shows the new Presbyterian Church.

## Land Co. Boosts Settling

Although a number of settlers had come into the Daysland area before 1904, the first organized effort to settle that area came in 1904 when the Alberta Central Land Corporation obtained 116,483 acres of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway, part of which was a block of land some twenty-four miles square incorporating the Daysland area. The land company then undertook to promote and sell the land to settlers, with E. W. Day as district representative.

### E. W. DAY

In the eyes of the settlers the country then was Day's Land, hence when a townsite was finally surveyed in 1905 it was promptly named Daysland. This was an area of rich agricultural land and when it was placed on the market it did not take long to dispose of. The soil was black loam with a clay subsoil which appeared to possess an inexhaustable fertility. The district at that time was not too heavily timbered, but possessed groves of poplar and willow scattered over the rolling prairie. This was important to raisers of live-stock as these shelter spots allowed the cattle to graze all winter.

### DISTRICT OF LAKES

The country at the turn of the century was dotted here and there with small lakes and sloughs. Most of the larger sloughs which were misnamed "lakes" drained in a meandering fashion into the Battle River as was the case of the Carbee Lakes located south and west of the town of Daysland. In all there were four districts of which Daysland was the nucleus, each named from bodies of water that predominated in that country. The Wavy Lake district was north and east, Carbee Lake district was southwest as mentioned, and the Spring Lake district was situated directly south.

### CARBEE RANCH COVERED 2,000 ACRES

E. B. Carbee was in Alberta be-

fore the turn of the century, having come west from the east and settled south of Daysland shortly after. His farm was located five miles south of Daysland where he soon became recognized as a large scale farmer and stock raiser. By 1907 he farmed 2000 acres and kept from 100 to 300 head of horses and from 400 to 600 head of cattle.

William Hillaby farmed two miles northeast of where Daysland was surveyed, having come up from one of the most fertile sections in North Dakota.

Joseph Thibert took up a farm a mile and a half from Daysland, having come from Berkeley, Rhode Island, engaging in mixed farming. Having also farmed in the wheat country in Ontario, he found that the country around Daysland was by far the superior wheat raising country.

Barley and flax did especially well in the early days, with oats being the top grain crop because of the heavy yield, running around 80 bushels per acre, and weighing around forty pounds to the bushel. Settlers also found that in addition to mixed farming both dairying and live stock could be raised on quite an extensive scale.

An abundance of coal found along the Battle River, and a few early mines that were already in operation provided a plentiful supply of coal at a very cheap price, running around \$1.00 to \$1.50 per ton. Many of the settlers found it cheaper and more expedient to

dig the coal out themselves during the slack season, and pile it up for winter. Wood was plentiful as well with considerable brush and trees being cleared off land during the breaking process.

### HATLEY RANCH

John Mavor came to the Daysland district in 1901 from Compton, Quebec and settled at what was named Hatley Ranch. His first years at ranching and farming were full of tribulation for he lost a lot of horses, who froze to death in the cold winters. Many of them also tangled in the barb wire fences and died from the wounds received. However he did all his breaking with oxen, which had much more endurance than the horse teams. In 1906 he was married to Marsha Ruth Carbee at Hatley, Quebec, and brought her back west to the Hatley Ranch southwest of Daysland.

### WIPED OUT BY FIRE

Frank R. Bowlby who had reached Edmonton in 1900 from Nova Scotia and settled south of Daysland on the northwest of 24-44-16 suffered considerable loss in the prairie fire 1906. He lost his house and everything in it in the fire. Originally he had paid \$10 for his homestead in 1902 and with the help of a friend, Davidson, he built a 14 by 20 foot lumber shack on it.

### FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mrs. Mavor started the first Sunday School in the Montrose schoolhouse in 1908. She had written 30 letters to the children of the district, and then had made candy as an added inducement. She was very active in church affairs, serving as secretary-treasurer of the Greenview Ladies Aid for 16 years and was also the first president of the Women's Institute which she organized in Daysland in 1915. Previous to coming to Alberta Mrs. Mavor had taught school for fourteen years in Quebec, starting at

the age of 16 years. Her first recollections of Alberta were the millions of mosquitoes that greeted her on her arrival, and the difficulty which ensued in handling her saddle horse.

#### BEAR AND WILDCATS

F. E. and Charles Block came from Minnesota in 1902 settling near the present town of Rosalind on 4-44-17. Their grandparents had homesteaded in Minnesota in 1857, and their father had been a veteran of the Indian Wars and was also a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. The boys homestead shack often housed 16 settlers for the night. Bears and wildcats kept the men busy watching their cattle. Later on they made 28 trips to Wetaskiwin in 1902 freighting supplies for neighbors. In 1906 F. E. Block worked for Thomas Thirsk and son at Bawlf, coming to Daysland in 1907 where he went into the implement business. In 1908 he had the International Harvester dealership, and in 1915 took over the Ford Motor Company Agency. John Mavor, settler of '01 bought the first threshing machine from the Block's in 1910. In 1949 they were awarded a 25 year service plaque from the Ford Motor Company. Fr. and Charles Block are still operating their implement business and car dealership, a total of 48 years in business.

## Hans Lohner

#### SHOES BURNT OFF

Hans A. Lohner arrived in Daysland in 1902 with his homestead location listed as 34-44-17. He too was to suffer many tribulations for in 1905 when the grassland was about 3 feet high a prairie fire came from the west and nearly surrounded the Lohner house. He had his family ready to move ahead of the flames, but with the help of neighbors he was able to save the buildings. In the fire-fighting attempts the shoes of the firefighters were burned right off their feet.

#### TEACHER AT ST. LEO

He taught school at St. Leo in 1903 where he had 47 pupils, 19 in Grade one. In 1904 the farmers applied to the government for a post office to be called Spring Lake, so he ran the store and post office for a year. The store had originally been built by Morrison and was situated along with the school (St. Leo's) on the south half of 2-44-16 just across the road allowance from Spring Lake, a small lake which fitted inside of the northeast quarter of 35-43-16. After the fire, Davidson and Bowlby went to Edmonton for more lumber to rebuild. M. R. Bowlby also helped to build St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church in 1904. Father Schulte was the priest that year. Mr. Bowlby recalls seeing the two-wheeled Red River carts go-

## DAYSIDE FOOTBALL TEAM — 1908



Some members on this team were Alex Farquarson, R. J. Dinning, Smith, Latournall and McLaughlin.

ing by the south of the Lake on the trail from the Hudson's Bay Post in Edmonton to Winnipeg. The trail, as he recalls had three deep ruts and many of the carts would break down if the wheels were not greased every day. Along the way the travellers would fix the broken wheels with branches from the trees on the trail. Other deep trails were from Buffalo going to the lake for water.

Later Mr. Bowlby was the first secretary-treasurer of the Local Improvement district before the formation of the municipality. He was a school trustee for many years and a justice of the peace. Before retiring to Daysland in 1947, he taught school at Innisfail, White Mud and Spring Lake.

William Wolbeck and his family came to the Spring Lake district in 1902, settling on the southwest 1/4 of 34-43-16. His daughter, Kate, (Mrs. Fred Burkard) was sick with the measles during the time the family were living in a tent awaiting the completion of their log house. As she recalls, her mother was the first white woman across the east end of Dried Meat Creek. She also recalls the prairie fire in 1906, remembering that it was on Good Friday and her father was badly burned fighting the fire. Her parents had bought C.P.R. land for \$3.00 per acre at Spring Lake. The telephone line came in 1906. Range cattle were run in the bushy rolling rangeland. As for social life in the early years Mrs. Burkard tells of the house parties, picnics and skating parties that took place. Her wedding dance was the first one held in Spring Lake Hall in 1914, with music by Mike Weller, Pete Rokas and Bill Fankhanel, handling 2 violins, a bass violin and mouth organs.

#### SPRING LAKE SETTLEMENT

John Lansing brought his family out to the Spring Lake district from Lansing, Mich., in October of 1902. His son, George, had come out the previous year to Edberg to look the country over. A home-

stead had been filed on in June on the southeast quarter of 16-44-16. Three sons, Ed, Lou and Lawrence also took up farming with Ed. Lansing residing on the homestead today.

#### OTHER PIONEERS

When John Lansing came to the country there were already a number of settlers that had come out earlier in the year and settled in the Spring Lake district. As remembered by Ed. Lansing, it included the following farmers: All these men settled in township 44, range 16. On section 10 were Otto Helmig, who had come in the summer of '02, Henry Eshpeter who came in the spring of '03, and Pete Schneider, who preceeded the Lansing's by a month. On section 16 were John Lansing and Austin Kenitz who came in the spring of '02. On section 4 were George Weller, John Lenner, Louis Braus and John Brown. On the southeast of section 20 was Steve Rakoz, Jack McLeod was on the southwest of 28 and his brother, Jim, on the southeast of section 24. On section 22 were Mac Knoll, Art Knoll and Hugo Knoll. Leonard Vos came shortly before the railway came into Daysland and Jim McCarrol settled on the southwest of 14 when he came in 1906. As near as can be recollectec this was the early group who settled the Spring Lake district with the southern end drawing towards Heisler.

#### DRY WELLS

George Lansing on his survey trip ahead of his father managed to break 20 acres in June and the following spring a crop of oats were seeded and a well dug with a spade. He dug to a depth of 42 feet without reaching water, so until a well was available slough water was used. When the family arrived they had 24 head of cattle and 6 head of horses with them, travelling by wagon as far as Edberg where John Lansing lived with a brother until his buildings were erected. A two-storey house

**Continued**

was put up, 16 by 24 feet and cattle sheds were later added. Art McManus assisted in the building of the house.

**CAUGHT IN BLOSSOM STAGE**

In 1907 the frost caught the wheat in blossom, but the frost was quite light and didn't completely wipe out the crop. The store at Spring Lake, run by Morrison and Bryington, supplied the Lansings and other settlers.

Later in the fall of '02 other settlers came out including Otto Helmig, and William Wolbeck. Bernard Sunderman came out that summer as did John Lennard.

**NEVER GO DRY**

Another interesting fact about Spring Lake came to light when related by Mrs. Leland Twitchell (Agnes Eshpeter) who is the daughter of Henry Eshpeter. She mentions that the lake was first called Never-Go-Dry as the buffalo often travelled for many miles to drink there. It seemed to be fed from underground springs.

**CYCLE TO TOWN**

The neighbors in those days didn't have too many leisure hours to get acquainted at least they met one another while out searching for cattle at milking time. There were no fences for miles so the livestock were rounded up by hunting for them. When the Roman Catholic Church, St. Boniface, was built the people hauled the lumber from Wetaskiwin building the school at the same time. Mrs. Twitchell recalls that her two uncles had a bicycle between them that they used to travel to Wetaskiwin with. They would take turns, riding a mile at a time. The first baseball game in Spring Lake was in the year 1913, but house parties in the homesteaders' homes were common long before that time.

James McCarroll entered into the struggle to obtain water when he tried digging wells on his homestead on the southwest of 14-44-16 in 1904. Finally he dug a shallow well near a slough and used a windlass to bring the water up. The Spring Lake farmers found that a trip to Wetaskiwin was a major undertaking for it took a full week to make a round trip with a team and wagon.

**STEEL GRADE SLOW WORK WITH HORSES**



# Three Types of Taxes Near Daysland



ALTHOUGH John Eklund had come to the Daysland area in 1905 and settled on the southeast quarter of 10-45-16 before the townsite was surveyed, his land at the present joins the townsite on the east. He is not convinced that it was good luck to settle so close to the town, for in the early days he was one of a very few persons that were burdened with three kinds of yearly taxes to pay. Once the townsite was established in 1905 with the coming of the railway, he paid a debenture tax to the town, school tax and municipal tax.

**YOUNGSTOWN TRAIL**

He arrived with other settlers at Wetaskiwin by rail in the wet spring of 1903 in May. On his first inspection trip he walked out to Daysland on the old Youngstown Trail which ran through Sparling. He recalls staying at the Saboe home overnight, before proceeding on his long walk. Once in the proper area he began the long search for homestead stakes. Once these were located he trekked back to the Land Titles Office in Wetaskiwin to file on the homestead. His father, William Eklund then came out and joined him, as had other settlers from Minnesota including two Jacobson brothers. There was little crop in the year of '04 and the severe winters of '06 and '07 saw many of the settlers running short of fuel. John Eklund remembers hauling coal by the sack and parcelling it out to the settlers in equal shares.

**THREE-DAY FAIRS**

Homesteading on the same section with Michael Carl Schroeder in 1903 were Herman Wendt and Barney Feddema, on section 16-43-15. Heather Brae was the nearest supply store and post office until

the coming of the railroad. Later Mr. Schroeder was associated with the Daysland Trading Company as a buyer for a packing plant, in business with Mr. Bentley and Mr. Day. Three-day fairs in Daysland in those days, sponsored by the Daysland Agricultural Society were quite the event of the years. He also recalls that Mrs. Dumont had the first boarding house in Daysland, and is now retired and living in Vancouver.

**BUILDING LUMBER CAME FROM CAMROSE**

Edwin Albert Quantz had entered for a homestead in 1904, two miles north of where the town of Daysland was located in 1905. In the summer of 1905, relates Mr. Quantz, "we had lumber hauled

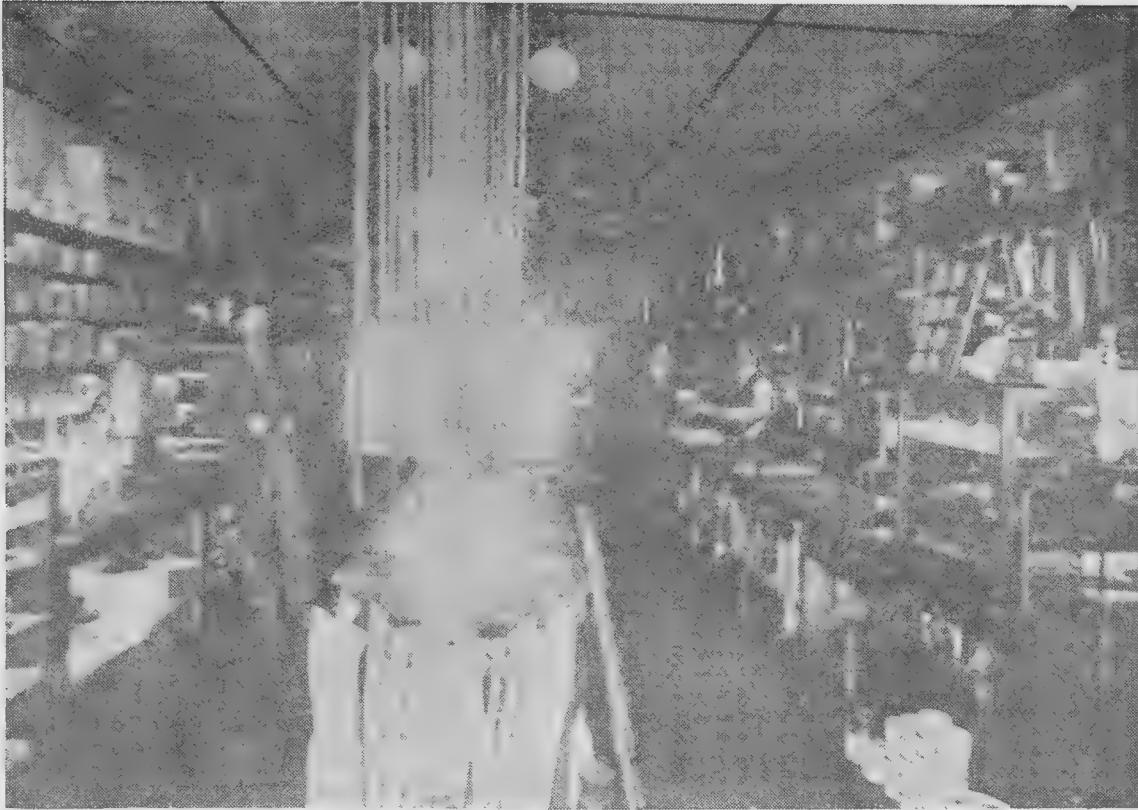


by wagon from Camrose to build my house, purchasing the lumber from Francois Adam's Lumber yard."

Mr. A. Flohr of Rosebush with Joe Sand as helper, built the small house and dug a well at the edge of a slough. Mr. Quantz had just taken unto himself a wife and with the threat of having the homestead cancelled, moved in on about the first of November, 1905. At that time Frank McIlveen who had a homestead a mile north of the Quantz farm, hauled lumber and built a small barn for Mr. Quantz.

Daysland at that time had just started to build at the end of the C.P.R. short line from Edmonton to Winnipeg. Next year it built on to Hardisty. Mr. E. W. Day had bought all the land under the Alberta Central Land Corporation except the homestead in that vicinity.

## WHYTE and ORR GENERAL STORE



## Stayed With Campbells



ILLIAM FREDRICK Kent was born in Winforth, Dorset England, leaving on March 14, 1905 and landing later that month in Canada.

From the port of Halifax, Nova Scotia, he went to Toronto and worked at engineering with the Massey Harris Company for a while and then with American-Able. He had a brother at Winnipeg so he decided to visit him in the month of September. He stayed only a few days, and on hearing what a good country Alberta was with the homesteads waiting for an owner, he headed for Wetaskiwin. There he met a gentleman by the name of Mr. McKenzie who directed him to homestead lands.

He sent for his brother and the two of them started out with a team and buggy to look for land. They got as far as Rosenroll, about 13 miles southeast of Wetaskiwin the first evening, stopping there in the hotel. The next day they stopped at the old Heather Brae Post Office for dinner and by night had reached the Vic Campbell ranch south of Daysland. This was as far as they had to go and Mr. Campbell put them up for the night.

Next morning they only had to walk a half mile east to where the homestead stakes were located.

The trip from Wetaskiwin had covered about 60 miles and the two Kents retraced their steps, stopping at Rosenroll where they were

able to purchase a team of horses, wagon and harness for \$100.00.

They drove the team back to Wetaskiwin and up to Edmonton to get the papers fixed up for the homestead, located on the southwest of 36-43-17. Here they loaded up the wagon with a sack of flour, groceries and a few tools, then started home again. Their progress was slow as they had discovered that one of their horses was winded, and the other couldn't see well!

It was late at night when they reached their homestead so they emptied the wagon box, turned it upside down and that was their house for the night. They had brought out enough lumber with them to build a 14 x 14 foot shack, and in place of shingles they used sods for the roof, with sods around the sides to bank up the house. One night they heard a thumping noise against the house and upon investigation they found there were about 75 head of cattle busily engaged in knocking the sod down.

Once a year a trek was made to Wetaskiwin for groceries, and later when the Ferry Point store opened up they bought many of their supplies there.

That year his brother took quite ill and wasn't able to work much. The winter of 1906 he died in the Angus Hotel at Daysland. Fred Kent had to bury him on his homestead as there wasn't any cemetery at that time. That winter as historians recall, was one of abundant snow and cold, with the snow on the level lying to the tops of the

fence posts. Fred recalls having two teams on the sleigh to get the casket to the grave. The front team was used to plunge through the snow and make a track, with the hind team pulling the sleigh.

Mr. Kent goes on to say . . . "Mr. Pierce who had a farm not far from the town of Rosalind today, was our post office. It was then called the Rosalind post office. When I came on my homestead the only neighbor I had was Victor Campbell. There was a hill on my land and I used to stand on the hill to see if I could see any houses. It wasn't long before you would see a house going up in the distance."

Mr. Kent was married in 1911 to a Scottish girl, Jane Gamble, by the Presbyterian minister in the Robert Gordon home near the Glenbank School. The school had been named by Mr. Gordon as it was built near the coulee banks and reminded him of the Glens of Scotland.

"Later on the C.N.R. railroad came through from Camrose, going east. It went by the southwest corner of my land and the Town of Ankerton started about a mile and a little east of my place."

"In about 1907 we started a football team under the name of the Spring Lake Football team, with 11 or 12 of us playing on the team, including a few that I can remember such as W. Campbell, V. Campbell, A. Ferguson and Art Cole."

Mr. Kent has in his possession today the old clock from the Alberta Hotel in Daysland that he bought for \$2.00 when the hotel was dismantled. It is still keeping good time.

# Teams and Wheelers Work on C.P.R. Grade

The Wavy Lake Post Office, operated by a Mr. Russell was the central point for Erik Erikson who had come to the Wavy Lake district in 1904, driving by team from Wetaskiwin to his homestead land filed on the northwest quarter of 18-46-14. He worked for the C.P.R., helping to build the grade started in the spring of '05 at Ohaton. There were ten teams and wheelers on his gang, recalls Mr. Erikson. Soon after that Camrose was no longer the end of the steel. He followed the railroad construction work from 1905 until 1913 during the winters, with Mike Anderson as boss of the construction gang. In 1911 he also had a part in the building of the irrigation ditch near Suffield, south of Calgary.

## QUARREL P.O.

Oscar Benjamin Olsen had also come out in 1904 and settled on the southwest of 34-46-15, proving up on his homestead in 1907. He is still residing on his homestead, which in the early days was in the vicinity of the old Quarrel Post Office. Later Daysland naturally developed into a supply point.

The year of 1905 saw men like Rudolph Schmidt, William Frederick Kent and Frank Swoboda enter into the rush for homesteads.

## LEARNED BREWERY TRADE

Rudolph Schmidt was born in East Prussia, Germany, and had immigrated to Canada and then on to Minnesota when he was 17 years old. In St. Paul he spent 3

years and learned the brewing trade and entered the state of matrimony. In 1905 he came to Alberta and took out a homestead 14 miles northeast of Daysland, sending for his family the following year.

## FIRST ENUMERATOR

The country around Daysland was mostly wilderness in 1906, but had been surveyed with government iron stakes marking the areas. Since these stakes were hard to read, Mr. Schmidt with the help of others, built road allowances to separate their homesteads. He was the first enumerator in the surrounding district for the first Provincial election.

## WILLOW S.D.

In 1907 he sensed the need for some education facilities, so was instrumental in forming what is now known as the Willow School District, and he served as secretary-treasurer for many years. He was also the first councillor in what was then known as the Local Improvement district. Later on, the Iron Creek Municipality was formed and he was councillor in this for 16 years. In the following years he served on various boards of different organizations, and at the time of his death in 1953 still served on the Board of Directors of the Strome Co-op. Store.

## SMUDGE POTS

His eldest son, Fred recalls blazing a trail to the store so that one could find their way home again.

Prairie fires, mosquitoes and sod-shack living are still vivid memories as were the smudge pots that had to be carried wherever one went as protection against an armed invasion of mosquitoes. In reminiscing, Fred Schmidt speaks of appreciating your neighbors, who usually lived 5 or 6 miles away, and of exchanging hearty hand shakes when you met, ruefully remarking that progress has certainly removed that social contact.

## PREMIER STEWART

In his father's early work with survey gangs staking out correction lines and road allowances, he became acquainted with a farmer and homesteader in the Killam district who later took on an implement agency. The two men became fast friends, with the machine dealer later rising to the premiership of Alberta—the Honorable Charles Stewart. (Mr. Stewart took over the Premiership when Victor Sifton joined the wartime coalition government at Ottawa. He held office in Alberta from 1918 to 1921, when the Liberals were swept from power by the Farmer Government. It is interesting to point out that his son, Fred Stewart, lives in Camrose, where he has been an engineer with Calgary Power for several years).

Rudolph Schmidt was a hobbyist of a nature, being a great hand at woodworking. He fashioned row-boats, one of which, claims his son, is still at Dried Meat Lake, if you can locate it. He organized the first Christmas concert in the Willow School when hardly anyone could speak English and the concert was carried on in sign language.

## DAYSLAND BAND, 1905



Some of the playing members included A. McDowell, (newspaper editor), Station Agent by the name of Taylor, John Eklund (rear, second from right) August Wardstrom, and Mr. Schade.

# E. W. Day - First Daysland Mayor

The following spring, of '06 when the railroad had reached as far as the townsite, the real boom began. In three short years nearly all lines of business were represented in the town, and in the following year, April of 1907 the townsite was officially incorporated and a council elected with E. W. Day as the first mayor.

## 30 BUSINESSES

By 1909 the town could boast almost thirty established businesses and a vigorous town council had spent three years setting to work on the many needed improvements. Streets were graded wide, permanent sidewalks built, drains arranged and necessary by-laws passed. The grounds for a cemetery and also for a nuisance grounds were purchased and a system of fire protection was installed.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

By 1911 when the population numbered 650, the organized fire brigade had 32 men on the brigade with one man sleeping at the station. Early equipment featured a Brandon chemical engine with a 60-gallon capacity, 2 hose reels with 600 feet of 2½" rubber, a 150-feet of lined hose, ladders, and a town well fitted with a Waterous gasoline engine pump with a capacity of 250 gallons per minute. The fire station was located on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Egerton Street, a block east from the Hotel.

## WIDE STREET

Main Street, running northeast and southwest had been surveyed 100 feet wide with other streets and avenues running 66 feet wide. The original survey provided for a development that included 21 blocks in the key plan. Main Street was to extend east for five blocks and branch out on either side for three blocks.

## PHEASANT HILLS BRANCH

Starting at the railroad, the Avenues were named, Alberta Ave., Jackson Ave., Mitchell Ave., Anley Ave., Brooks Ave., and Saunders Ave. The streets west of Main were named, Egerton, Sutherland, and Bentley Streets; east of Main they were called George, Gooderham and Lonsdale streets. The C.P.R. line which connected with Saskatoon was called the Pheasant Hills Branch.

## THREE ELEVATORS

In 1911 three elevators were already established in the town, the Imperial Elevator and Lumber Co., whose elevator had a capacity of 30,000 bushels, the West Coast Grain Co., with an 18,000 bushel capacity elevator and the Alberta Pacific Elevator Co., with the largest elevator, holding 35,000 bushels. The Daysland Creamery

which was 250 yards east of the last mentioned grain elevator, was only 150 feet from the railway line and had their own ice house just south of their building.

each year with much active competition in the livestock classes, especially Durhams and Ayrshires particularly.

## BUSINESSES

Two years after incorporation, Daysland boasted of four general stores, two hardwares, two furniture dealers, three implement warehouses, two lumber yards, two grain buyers, one elevator, one chartered bank, one drug store, two milliners, several restaurants, a harness shop, two pool rooms, a first class meat market, two good hotels, a bright clean weekly newspaper and many other smaller institutions. The town had an up-to-date telephone system and a rural line giving connection with a large number of the farmers in the Spring Lake country to the south. A modern (for its day) school building had been erected with a university graduate at the head of the staff.

## HOSPITAL

The Sisters of Providence had established and built a brick hospital to the west of the center of the town with a staff of nurses in their employ.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Daysland Agricultural Society had been established and was an important and powerful influence in the town and district. The Society had a large membership and owned its own grounds, comprising some sixty acres a short distance from the center of the town. A track had been built on the property as well as buildings. An annual three-day fair was held

The town abounded in sporting proclivities with a curling rink in operation during the winter and a skating rink for the young people. In summer the Tennis Club flourished as well as the Baseball Club and the Association Football Club.

Lodges came into being with the Knights of Pythias, the Canadian Order of Foresters and the Independent Order of Foresters in the first years.

## L.I.D.

Local Improvement District No. 22 was formed surrounding, but not including the town and consisted of four townships. The first councillors to be elected were R. B. Veeder, William Hillaby, Knut Larson and J. A. McArthur with E. A. Quantz as the first appointed secretary-treasurer.

## MEAT MARKET

Mrs. E. J. Slavik, now of Edmonton, tells The Canadian that the Daysland Meat Market was established in 1906 by her husband on Main Street. It was of frame construction and refrigeration was accomplished by the use of a gasoline engine. Store lights were supplied by oil lamps, and later by a gasoline generator. The business changed hands several times and is being carried on today by Nick Weller. A smoke house and rendering house with an ice house in the rear completed the establishment.

Continued on next page



Showing (left to right): F. E. Block, W. Block, Mrs. W. Vandour (sister), Charles Block, Henry Block, W. Wendt and Fred Block.

(Continued)

The Gordon and Barker General Store, as told by Mrs. E. Barker, opened in 1905 carrying a line of groceries and dry goods. The store burned down in April of 1907. Beside the store was the first hall in the town, used first as a school room, for church services, etc., and adjoined the store.

#### STILL GOING

The Daysland Drug Store, opened in 1906 by J. Heber Burrows was operated by this same gentleman until 1944 when he sold the business to F. Lang. It was situated on Main Street. Mrs. Burrows also operated the telephone exchange in the rear of the building for many years.

#### HARNESS SHOP

Frank Swoboda came to Daysland in 1906 and went into the harness shop business. Business in this line was very good, with only oxen harness carried in stock in the homesteading years. Frank also built a fishing shack on Dried Meat Lake and the Daysland Fishing Club enjoyed weekly excursions to the lake for fishing and picnicking.

#### PRIZE BULL

The Agricultural Society got off to a flying start, and operated most successfully for a number of years. O. A. Boggs was one of its ardent supporters, raising Hereford cattle. At one time he was also a director of the Alberta Hereford Breeders' Association and travelled the full circuits with his son, Arthur Boggs, for many years. They won prizes from Coast to Coast from 1918 to 1926 and exhibited the Grand Champion bull at the Toronto Winter Fair in 1925.

# First Daysland Teacher

#### E. A. QUANTZ

E. A. Quantz taught the first school in the town of Daysland, which was held in a rented house. It was opened in the fall of 1906 and the school-house was built the following year. He also taught at Bateman School, north of town when that school was opened. In 1910 he sold his homestead to J. Fae and moved to Ontario for one year, returning again to Alberta. He is now residing at Innisfail, where he retired from the teaching profession last year at the age of 89 years. He was also the first teacher at the Rosebush School in 1904 and '05, and with his cayuse and road cart was able to get about the district in good weather on the roads.

#### PIONEERED SCHOOLS

Although he was half farmer and half teacher, both of his contributions to the settlement of the country were felt in many areas. Where farmers pioneered the homesteads, Edwin Quantz pioneered the schools and for that reason a historical record of this area is incomplete without an account of this educator's life.

#### ONTARIO BORN

Edwin A. Quantz was born in Markham Township, York County, Ontario, on a farm in 1866. His forebears were pioneer stock, his paternal grandfather having come to Canada in the trek of the Pennsylvania Dutch from the United States, about the year 1800.

The grandfather fought with Canadian forces against the U.S. in the war of 1812-14, when about 18 years old. For his services he re-

ceived from the Crown a grant of 200 acres of raw land.

#### ATTENDED MODEL SCHOOL

After graduating from Markham Village High School, Mr. Quantz attended the Old Country model school at Newmarket in 1885 and he was appointed to his first school at Kinburn in Carleton County, about 30 miles from Ottawa in 1886. He taught for three years and then took a business course at Chatham in 1889, graduating in third place in a class of 40 students.

#### KING OF COMMUNITY

"But despite the hardships, teaching had its compensations in those stirring pioneer times", he says. The teacher was king or queen in the community, the moving spirit and leader in all community activities."

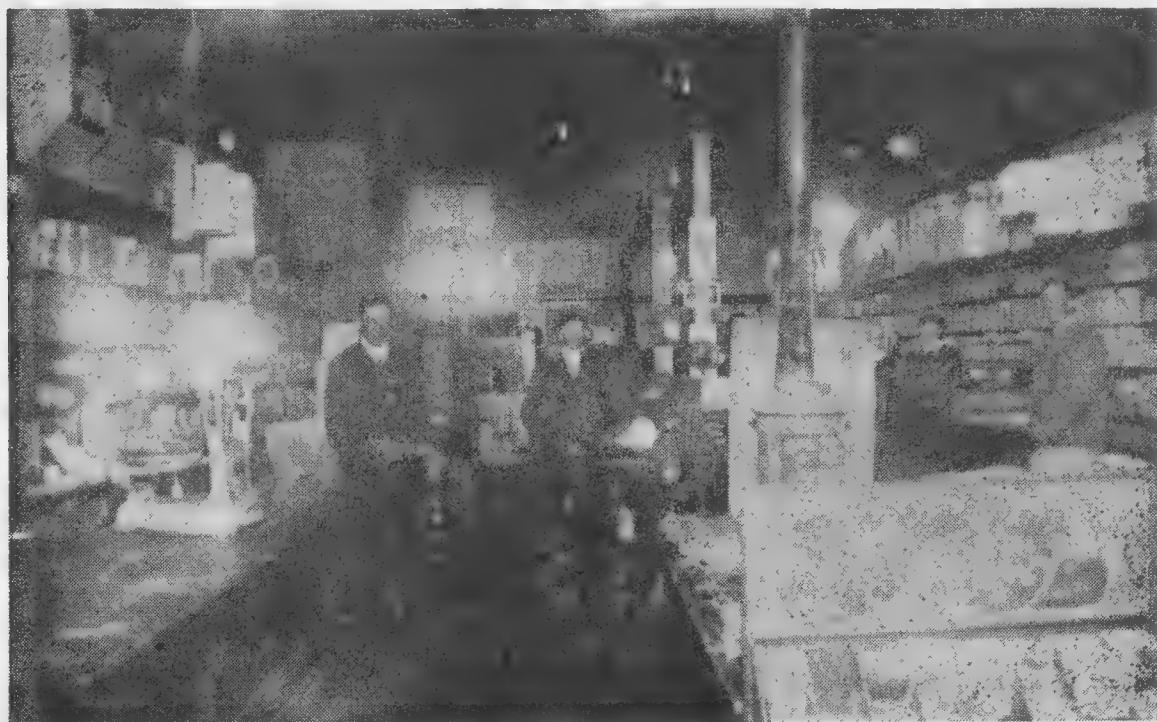
His formula for keeping young included enjoying people, particularly the children, being an optimist and always trying to look on the bright side.

#### 68 YEARS OF TEACHING

In 1952 he was back again in our area, teaching a rural school at Strome. In communication with Mr. Quantz with regard to the Jubilee Edition of The Canadian, the grand old gentleman says that he retired from the teaching profession on June 30, 1954. Rapid calculation tells us that Mr. Quantz closed a glorious career in education after active participation of 68 years, a record any teacher or educator would willingly pay homage to.

\* \* \*

From his home at Innisfail he sends greetings to all the "boys and girls of my former schools and old friends of Daysland, and Rosebush.



Interior of Matthews and MacGregor Store, taken in 1910 with (left to right) Manson Taylor, W. W. MacGregor, Ed Hopfe, Miss Braun and Ben Matthews.

# Used Plank for Bank

OME OF THE early businessmen and residents of Daysland were able to provide valuable information regarding the establishment and operation of the early businesses. As gleaned from memories of almost fifty years ago, a few of the early businesses have been partially reconstructed and are presented in the following story.

R. J. Dinning was the first bank manager in the town of Daysland, now residing in Calgary and writes of his early experiences . . .

"I opened the Bank (Merchant's Bank) in Daysland in January of 1906. It was opened in an alcove at the head of the stairs in the hotel, and we put up a plank across for the counter. We were there for a month and then moved to the sample room of the hotel, which opened out on Main Street. The hotel (Angus) was built with green lumber which dried out and left quite large cracks in the walls.

## OPEN AT 6 A.M.

1906 was a very busy summer with thousands of immigrants pouring in with their settler's effects, and if the occasion demanded, we opened the Bank as early as six in the morning and banking accommodation was available as late as 11 o'clock.

The winter of 1906-07 was possibly the worst Alberta has ever seen. It was almost impossible to keep anything from being frozen. The snow was five to six feet on the level with continuous cold weather. There were no roads only winding trails and when a trail had been packed down, it was, in many cases, impossible to pass another team without getting marooned in the snow.

There was ample fodder in the

country for the livestock but the difficulty lay in the fact that you could not, in many cases, get the animals to the feed, or the feed to the livestock, with the result that the losses were terrifically heavy, in fact, in the outlying districts there was a good deal of hardship owing to the lack of fuel and supplies.

During this winter Daysland continued to be the end of the steel and we were supplying the country as far east as Provost. A great many homesteaders used oxen entirely.

## GOOD TYPE CITIZENS

The following spring, in June of 1907, the snow was still lying in the sheltered spots and the crop was very late in being seeded, with the result that the yield was damaged by frost. New money poured into the country and this created a prosperous business community as Daysland was the trading centre for a large area east. The town was fortunate in having a very good type of citizens and the people worked together in harmony to improve the community. Football, baseball, curling and tennis were the chief recreations and all were very well patronized.

## LIKABLE FELLOWS

Mr. Dinning was only stationed in Daysland for three years, and had as his assistant, Mr. Latourneau, who was the teller. As Mr. Quantz said in his recollections . . . "both were likeable young fellows and always ready to give advice and to render service . . . "

## FIRST WOMAN IN TOWN

The first woman in town was Mrs. Dumont who ran a boarding house in the town, and she had established her boarding house in the town before the railroad came through, around the fall of '05.

She is now retired and living in Vancouver.

The Board of Trade was one of the busiest groups in the thriving town, organized early and worked with much effort and determination. In 1907 they had published a publicity pamphlet about Daysland, picturing the first train coming into the town in '06. The Board then had a membership numbering over 80 businessmen who managed to keep their town ever in front of the public. Pictures of farming scenes and ranch homes of some of the prosperous farmers and livestock raisers contributed to the booklet. Testimonials from many of the established farmers told their story of a second conquest of the land and of their satisfaction with their lot.

The first church erected was the Methodist Church, with Rev. R. E. Findley an energetic preacher and executive pusher at the helm. This spring at the annual convocation of the University of Alberta, Rev. Findley was conferred with an honorary degree.

The building committee consisted of Messrs. J. E. Vandenberg, B. M. Pauls, Orberg, Davidson and E. A. Quantz. Services were held in various places until the church building was finished. Opening dedication service with the Rev. Dr. Ridell, Principal of Alberta College, officiating. E. A. Quantz was the first Sunday School Superintendent and also the Bible Class teacher. Mrs. J. E. Vanderburg was the Sunday School organist.

The Presbyterian Church, a somewhat better edifice, was erected a year or two later, with first services held above Gordon and Barker General Store, conducted by a one-armed layman, as recalled by the townspeople. In 1910 the Presbyterian Church, which was called Knox Church, was taken over by the United Church at the time of amalgamation.



Frank Swoboda Harness Shop — 1900, with the owner on the right, and a man by the name of Mosier in the middle of the group.

# Newspaper Was Feature

## NEWSPAPER

The town was most fortunate in that an energetic business man by the name of A. A. P. MacDowell started up a newspaper and job printing plant in May of 1906. Some of the file copies of this paper for the years of 1913 and 1914 have been made available to The Canadian, and much valuable material gleaned from its pages. The newspaper was a 6-column page which printed an average of 8 pages a week, a large task for a town of 600 persons. Mr. MacDowell was an active contributor to all community efforts, as well as playing baseball on the Daysland team. His newspaper was a real credit to the community, not only carrying local news, national and international news, but happenings in the area, covering a radius of 50 miles. Later after establishment of district correspondents wrote for the Daysland Press of happenings in their area which all went to make the Press a widely read paper. At the same time George Peter Smith was running The Camrose Canadian which did not get its start until December of 1908, being preceded in 1906 by The Camrose Mail.

A glance at the early advertisers in the files of The Press showed a large variety of businesses serving the town. The Merchant's Bank of Canada which had built their premises in 1907, although they were established in 1906, remained the only bank until taken over by the Bank of Montreal in 1921.

## AUCTIONEER

W. C. Edinger, licensed auctioneer carried regular advertisements in The Press, crying his sales everywhere with satisfaction guaranteed and soliciting a trial sale to prove his worth. Old timers recall the personality and character of this man most vividly, remembering him as the fastest-talking auctioneer the country has ever seen. When he sold his own farm and machinery holdings, he cried his own sale, drawing people for miles around who came to enjoy the proceedings as much as to buy.

The three-day agricultural fair of 1913 advertises the Rice Brothers Hippodrome and Menagerie shows, running three days during the fair. They had their show under a huge tent which was supposed to seat 6,000 persons. A street parade was held each day with free exhibitions at the show grounds. Attendants were advertised as courteous, no games of chance to tempt the fastidious. Ladies and children, said the poster, need not hesitate to come unattended.

## MINISTERS

The Church Directory showed two Methodist ministers in the district with the Rev. John M. Wilkinson officiating at Daysland and East Lynne and Rev. W. I. Brad-

ley preaching at Sedgewick. The Presbyterian Church had in their service the Rev. J. K. McKean in the Daysland parish, Rev. Wm. Hamilton in the Killam parish and Rev. J. A. James in the Strome and Wavy Lake parishes. Rev. X. E. Teck held services for the Roman Catholic Church at Daysland, Prague, Viking and Hardisty. Rev. J. Seltmann took care of the parishes of Wanda, Strome south of Strome, Spring Lake, Lougheed and Loveland. Church of England services were conducted by the Rev. John A. Partridge at Killam and Willow Hollow School.

## DOCTORS

Dr. H. S. Shirreffs was doing the doctoring in the district in 1913 and Drs. Couin and Johnson were the veterinary surgeons, specializing in lung and swamp fever as well as surgery. They advertised that their medicine was given hypodermically.

## BUTCHER

E. J. Slavik the butcher was advertising ground green bone as just the thing for poultry. Open kettle rendered lard, guaranteed fresh and pure was selling for around 16 cents a pound.

Hail insurance was already a big business those years with J. H. Schade and Barnet & Graham handling the policies. J. Heber Burrows advertised seven different other poisons, with formaldehyde selling for 35 cents a beer-quart.

Harris Dairy Products, managed by J. M. Gardner advertised for cream, butter and eggs, reminding customers that they wanted the cream, sweet or sour, for cash. They also reminded that all cream taken on Saturdays was graded as sour.

O. J. Mosier advertised his registered stallions, Leo Muscovite a standard bred stallion and Voltare, his Percheron stallion. Pedigree and registration papers for these horses were available on request.

## MUSIC

The Knox Presbyterian minister, McKean undertook musical tuition under assignment from the Columbia Conservatory of Music in Edmonton. He bought a piano, highlight of the day, and undertook instruction in piano, organ, violin and guitar. Shortly after this announcement, Editor McDowell undertook to sell organs and pianos on the side, advertising the Doherty Organ among many others.

## BAND

The Daysland Band provided the music for the Sixth Annual Fair in 1913, a picture of the members is featured in this section.

A man named A. L. Eastly operated the newspaper in Bawlf at the same time the Press was in operation in Daysland, unfortun-

fire in Bawlf in 1913. Later he bought out the Press plant and moved on to Sedgewick, where he bought out the Press plant. His son, A. W. Eastly, now operates the Sedgewick Community Press.

# Daysland - 1905

The Canadian is indebted to Mr. Quantz for his contribution to the story of Daysland, mentioning the following people who were in Daysland or came soon after, when he moved onto the homestead in November of 1905:

E. W. Day of the Alberta Central Land Corporation,

Whyte and Orr, who ran a Hardware store,

Wavy Lake Lumber Company, under the management of Mr. Dan McLeod,

Vanderburgh Lumber,

Dan Davidson, Conveyancer, who became the first Postmaster and had a homestead at Spring Lake,

J. Heber Burrows, the first Druggist,

Carner, who ran the Pioneer General Store and later sold out to M. Rooney,

E. J. Slavik, who operated a butcher shop,

F. Foster, who operated a barber shop,

Two livery barns and the Angus Hotel,

Dr. I. W. T. McEacheran was at Bawlf, and a doctor moved to Daysland shortly after.

## FARMERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Mr. Quantz also mentions the homesteaders he recalled being in the country when he took up homesteading.

On the north: Orberg and his son, Fred, who now lives in Everett, Washington; Veeders, father, two sons and a son-in-law; Hansons, two brothers; N. Bayliss, who retired later to Daysland; Bardwell, who went to Minnesota, Hays, who left for B.C.; John Brown who operated a store and post office about 8 miles north, called Quarrel post office, and Al Hills, a rancher on the northwest on the border of Quarrel Lake, who later went to Edmonton.

West of Town: B. M. Pauls, Rod Johnston and two sons; A. W. Carner of the Pioneer General Store; who later went ranching.

South of Town: Dan McLeod of the Wavy Lake Lumber Company; Dr. McEacheran of Bawlf and John and J. T. Anderson, who resided south west near the Fertile School.

East of Town: W. Eklund, bordering the town; G. Wardstrom, J. Fae, Hillaby and sons, George Robson, Sam Lucas, Hans Owre and Fisher.

Northeast of Town: A photographer by the name of G. Stokoe, who later went back to New Brunswick; Joe Robson, Clarke, Chas. Auburn and Caesar.



The Fred Weymouth home east of Spring Lake, where the first Christmas Tree was held in the district.

Fred Weymouth and his family came out from South Dakota to the Spring Lake district in 1903. His daughter, Mrs. Harry Owre of Daysland recalls the fire of 1903, and living in a sod house with a dirt floor and sod and brush roof. The first Christmas Tree program east of Spring Lake was held at

the Weymouth home. Mr. Weymouth was interested in photography and in the early days took many pictures of his family and those of other settlers. In Mrs. Owre's possession is a picture of this first Christmas tree, with the neighbor children gathered around a bravely decorated spruce tree. Highlight of the day were the apples which had been brought in

especially for the occasion. Mrs. Weymouth had made candles out of tallow for the tree, and popcorn was strung on the branches. Home-made candy, a rare luxury concluded a most memorable day in the lives of the settler children. Decorated cookies in fancy shapes completed the decorations which looked most tempting with the bags of candy hung on the tree.

## Kelsey...Named for Homesteader *Early School Served Large Area*

The town of Kelsey derived its name from homesteader Moses Kelsey. The railroad was built across Mr. Kelsey's land on S.E. 4-45-18 in 1916, the townsite purchased and named after him. Mrs. George Hall (Minnie Kelsey) writes from Penticton, B.C., as follows: "Father never expected the new town to be named after him. He thought it should have been named Schneiderville, after the school district and August Schneider the first family in the district."

Mr. and Mrs. Moses Kelsey's most outstanding work in the early district was in organizing Sunday School classes. Heather Brae the first school in the whole area first received their attention in 1903. Mr. Kelsey was the Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Kelsey and Mrs. Kidder teachers and Minnie Kelsey the secretary. In 1904, Mr. D. A. Williams, teacher at Heather Brae also taught a class and gave special assistance with the musical part of the Sunday School. The young people from Albury attended classes at Heather Brae until a class was formed

in their own school after it was built. This class proved very successful.

### PREACHED FUNERALS

Many people recall that Mr. Kelsey preached funeral services in the absence of a regular church minister.

In company with several other families of settlers Moses Kelsey left Milbank, South Dakota, Mar. 1902, followed by Mrs. Kelsey, Minnie and Earl in August the same year. They filed on homestead, S.E. 4-45-18, also bought a section of C.P.R. land. Their first house was a frame building 14 by

16 feet, followed by a larger structure 16 by 24 which they moved into before it was finished and was very cold. A tiny barn for four horses was replaced by a larger log structure, logs being hauled from a school section along the lake, now part of Dingman land.

### TERRIBLE LONELINESS

Mrs. Hall recalls the terrible loneliness the family felt with no relatives here. They were lucky enough to have a buggy to drive in, most settlers used a wagon. Two picnics a year on Dried Meat Hill at Carl Wabel's hall was the outstanding social events that brought the settlers from as far away as Alliance.

The parents have passed away. Earl Kelsey resides in Edmonton and Minnie Kelsey, Mrs. George Hall, step mother of Mrs. Dean Cunningham resides at Penticton, B. C.

# Formation of Schools Split Up Large Areas

Mary Bessie Cross came with her parents to the Kelsey district in 1902 from Colorado, homesteading near the present village of Kelsey. Her early days were spent on horseback, rounding up her father's cattle, and she got plenty of experience driving through the deep snow with horses. She was married to William Landkamer of Daysland, in 1908, and he and his wife in writing from their home in Edmonton, tell many interesting experiences of the early days.

## DOVE FOR LAND GUIDE

Landkamer especially mentions the land guide, J. S. McDonald with whom he made many trips, driving a team owned by the Heather Brae hotelkeeper. Each trip as he recalls, carried four land seekers and the guide and driver in a spring-seat wagon. McDonald could drive for half a day over the raw prairie looking for a certain corner stake. When Mr. McDonald called "stop", there was the correct stake. According to the narrator, Mr. McDonald never missed a stake by more than ten feet. He was considered as a very kindly and accommodating gentleman. Landkamer speaks most highly of Billy Phipps who hauled goods for Valentine. Says he, "a better man never drew line over a team of horses."

## FOUR CHARGES UNITED

When the Albury School district was formed in 1903 a lot of the overload from the Old Heather Brae School was transferred to this area, including many persons who lived in the district that some 15 years later took the name of Kelsey. In 1905 the first church conference was held in Alberta and the Heather Brae Mission charge was established to include Heather Brae, Albury, Kelsey and Spring Lake charges.

Kelsey hamlet did not get its start until around the same time as Rosalind in 1915 when the railroad was put through, which incidentally ran through the land of Moses Kelsey, and the townsite took its name from this old-timer.

Kelsey became a Village in 1916 but did not get a school until 1924. In 1920 the Skafse Church was moved from its location in the New Salem district north of Heather Brae to Ohaton, and then the Kelsey residents had a closer church to attend.

Melville school opened in 1903, named after the home of Bob Anderson and his brother Ed, who had come from Melville, P.E.I. His sister, Miss May Anderson, was the first teacher, and Rev. Turnbull the first minister to hold services in the school.

## CEMETERY

The Melville cemetery was laid out on the Elijah O'Neil farm and Mrs. O'Neil was the first person buried there. The burial grounds are still used by the Kelsey United Church.

The school which opened in Kelsey in 1924 had as its first board members, Thirsk, Burke and McCarty. This two room school was operated until 1947 when the senior room was moved to Bawlf. The school is now closed and all the pupils now attend Bawlf School, travelling by bus.

Horicon School operated for 42 years, being opened in 1910 and finally closing in 1952. Old pioneers such as Hamren, Granger, King, and Hoese helped it start, with Hamren naming the district from the town he had come from in the States.

Willow Hill school did not open until 1921 and was closed in 1942.

## ACME BASEBALL TEAM



This photo was taken in 1916, with Ben Stern as one of the players. A. Luger was the captain.

**D**AKOTA territory had been pioneered and homesteaded by the Thirsk family. Coming to the Albury district, they operated the store at Ferry point, and opened a store in Bawlf in 1906 in Schrot building, just north of the hotel. Wesley Thirsk was first postmaster at Equity (Ryley) where he also operated the first general store.

Thomas Thirsk was born March 21, 1848 in Hull, England, coming to Ontario with his family when three years old. He grew to young manhood there, served his apprenticeship as a wagon maker and married Maggie Whitten of Bayfield, Ontario. Margaret Ann and Clara May were born to the family there and they moved to Ionia, Michigan, where Wesley Thirsk was born. In 1881 the family moved to Milbank in the Dakota Territory where they developed a large farm. In the spring of 1901 Mr. Thirsk heard of the wonderful land in Alberta, got the pioneer spirit again and left Milbank in company with the Moses Kelsey family.

## LAND GUIDE McDONALD

When arriving at Wetaskiwin they heard a railroad was being built east so in company with J. S. McDonald, land guide of this district, they came out and filed on S.W. 6-44-17, Mr. Kelsey filing on the quarter that the town of Kelsey now stands on. Mr. Thirk's homestead was the first filed on in that township.

In 1902 the family sold their Milbank farm and shipped three carloads of settlers' effects to Wetaskiwin. They were preceded by a sister, Mrs. Ray Cunningham and her family.

## RAFTED FENCE RAILS

Leon and Wesley, who were sent to bring the rails home, built two rafts, tied them together, piled on their bedding and provisions and towed a canoe. They did not consider the wire fences that were built by that time which provided the first thrill for the boys. Leon's raft caught a snag and the towline broke leaving him and his raft stranded. Rapids and shallow water forced the young men to abandon their trip and they sought shelter with a half breed family for the night, bedding themselves down on the floor. They put in an uncomfortable two or three days after the fleas discovered they were tenderfeet. The rafts were dismantled and hauled out by team and the entire framework of the barn, 32x40 was built of them. The barn still stands on the farm now owned by Lynn Hillaby.

Wesley Thirsk returned to Milbank, North Dakota in 1914 and operated a grocery store in partnership with his brother Lloyd. He married Calista C. Cunningham in 1917 and they returned to Kelsey in 1918 and purchased a section of land a mile south of Kelsey which they still own.

## ROSALIND BASEBALL TEAM



Some thirty years ago, after they had won the tournament at Rosalind Sports. Front: Nick Weller, Lorne Batke, Per Hous, Charles Renolment. Back: Ollie Tidball, Smithy McClellan, Herb Linberner, Bernard Enright, Billy Campbell. Standing: Ed Orr, manager.

## Early P.O. at Rosalind

The settlement and area surrounding Heather Brae came into being around 1893. It flourished, and died with the coming of the railroad line from Camrose west of the Daysland-Bawlf line in 1915. But it was only the community itself that died when the towns of Ohaton, Daysland and Bawlf on the one line established, and the later towns of Kelsey and Rosalind on the other line came into being.

### MOTHERED HAMLETS

Heather Brae being the first post office and supply store, became a well travelled area. They built the first school and church, drawing people for miles. Some of these people close to the east railway lines, split off and went to schools and churches at other points. But Heather Brae was the mother, and fostered the children of Ohaton, Bawlf and Daysland, and later, of Kelsey and Rosalind. Her family grew with the steel and eventually came into their own. As Duhamel to the west of the river fostered many towns, Heather Brae on the east side of the river took charge of her brood.

### COUNTED TURNS OF WAGON WHEELS

Warren C. Pierce, who was a blood descendant of Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the U.S., and whose grandmother was Mercy Warren, came up from South Dakota in 1902 looking for homestead land. From Bawlf he started out to search for his quarter which was located on the southwest of 16-44-17. He had an idea of the direction and he knew the distance he should travel. His young daughter (now Mrs. Wm. Van Petten),

was with him in the wagon, and she still remembers the trip. Her father tied a rag around the wagon wheel and proceeded to count the turns of the wheel to give him an estimate of the distance he travelled. He located the land stakes finally but his young daughter was sick and dizzy from counting the turns of the wagon wheel.

The Pritchard family was located when he arrived. Mr. Pierce built a boat and floated lumber from Crooked Lake to Ferry Point for his buildings. Soon after his settling, Pierce ran the first Rosaland post office at his farm which he kept for many years until the Riley family came to the newly-bubbled townsite in 1916. The original post office box he used is now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. A. L. Van Petten, is now used by her sons to store bolts in the machine shop.

The stories of how the name "Rosalind" came into being are numerous, but one resident recalled hearing one version. A Miss Rose Lind came from England and taught school at Coal Valley or East Lynn School. She boarded with the Kennedy's near present Rosalind, and when it was decided that a town was to be made there they thought it would be a very

pretty name for a town. Perhaps many residents of that area could find a lot of flaws in the story. The early post office run by Warren Pierce had the name of Rosalind long before the town was established.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1903 Warren Pierce organized the first Sunday School for the children which was held in various houses. Student ministers and circuit riders were holding the occasional church service in the homes. The Rosalind School house was built around this time and another new district, called Montrose was formed. Church services were held in the new school by Rev. John Biddle, driving to the school in a buggy.

### MOVE SPRING LAKE CHURCH

As mentioned in the Daysland story, Mrs. John Mavor in 1907 appealed to the children of the district with a party and home-made candy and got the children's Sunday School underway once more. It was not until 1911 that Rosalind boasted a church, which was moved in from Spring Lake. The community now had a permanent place to hold church and Sunday School services and this building accommodated people from Montrose and Melville districts as well.

Between 1915 and 1916 the railroad was put through and the community reshuffled itself and established on the southwest quarter of 17-44-17 which was about one mile west of the homestead of Warren Pierce.

### FIRST BUSINESSMEN

A. J. Endres came to Rosalind in 1915, having been in Alberta since 1901 when he emigrated from his Detroit Lakes, Minnesota home. His father had homesteaded on the half section of 14-47-20 north of Camrose. A. J. carried the early mail and worked in a harness shop and his son today runs an implement business, hardware and service station in Rosalind. A. J. also had a very memorable experience in his life when he went to Edmonton to attend the Inauguration of the first government.

W. H. Riley and his wife came to Rosalind in 1916 and Mrs. Riley was the first woman in the town. Mr. Riley was the third man. The first two men who came to the town were Stanley McKay who started general store in 1915 and Martin Owren who started a lumber yard that same year.

The Riley's took over the post office and Mr. Riley opened the first elevator, the Imperial Elevator and Lumber Company, which is now the Alberta Pacific elevator.

### MOVE FERRY POINT HALL

Another important event took place in the town when in 1921 the Modern Woodman's Lodge hall that had been built at Ferry Point was moved to Rosalind. The seven miles distance from Ferry Point was considerably lengthened when the movers had to follow the

easier contours of the land lying between the points. The total distance covered was fifteen miles to reach the town. Over nineteen men were employed in this move and thirty-two horses. The hall is still in use in Rosalind today as a community hall.

#### SEWING MACHINE 55 YEARS OLD

Margaret Shaw, who came from Grey County, Ontario, established a little dress-making shop in a location just off the present Whyte Avenue in Strathcona, South Edmonton. The sewing machine used in the first shop of its kind in Strathcona, 55 years ago is still running well in the home of a niece, Mrs. Alvin Luger of Camrose.

Fred Magee worked as a surveyor in the Buck Lake area at the turn of the century when survey work was being completed in this area of the "Territories."

Born of Irish parentage, Magee came to Strathcona in 1895 with his parents when a lad of 14 years. The family recalls that his mother came from Ireland when 8 years of age, having been put in the care of a captain of a ship.

In 1902 he came to the Bawlf area and took up a homestead, making his first trips to Wetaskiwin for supplies with a team and wagon. Heather Brae store and post office soon opened up and became his shopping centre for necessities.

#### DRILLED WELLS

He built his own house on the homestead and supplemented his income for improving his homestead by drilling water wells with a horse powered drilling rig. The country was still very wet.

Fred Magee and Margaret Shaw were married April 29, 1903, the trip to Wetaskiwin for the wedding being made with team and wagon.

#### DAIRY

In 1909 they moved to the village of Bawlf and operated a dairy and dray business until 1918 when they returned to the farm. Nearly thirty years of their life was spent in Heather Brae district and one son, Percy, still resides there. A daughter, Alice (Mrs. Mike Sweeney) Kelsey, and a daughter, Deana, (Mrs. Bob Hillaby), resides in Donalda. Five remaining members of the family reside at various points in Alberta and B.C., a son, Bob, Edmonton, passed away recently.

Fred Magee was a fine "old time" violinist, having learned to play by ear when 5 years of age from his brother Bill, who was twenty years his senior. He played for dances often and for the pleasure of his music. The Magees were faithful community workers and their home was always home to the weary traveller and the meeting place for young people of the district. He was interested in sports and they were members of farm and community organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Magee retired to Camrose to reside in 1951.

## First Teacher at Albury

The first settlers in the Albury school district were without school facilities for nearly ten years. Some of the children attended classes at Heather Brae and all attended Sunday school classes there.

The parents held meetings in their homes to organize a school district in 1903 and built the school which opened February 1, 1904.

Lumber was hauled from Wetaskiwin for its construction under direction of J. B. Scott, George Batke, W. R. Cunningham and John Hicks, with Sherman Fox secretary treasurer who served in that capacity for 14 years. The honor was shared with Thomas Rawson who served in the same service a like period (14 years).

The name of Albury originated through the Ed Anderson family who came to the district from Albury, Prince Edward County, Ontario.

#### FIRST TEACHER

Mrs. Sherman Fox was the first teacher who was considered to be an outstanding one who added to

her laurels of teaching the longest period, three years, in the school.

#### OTHER TEACHERS

Miss Edith Torrence, Mrs. Errol Fox, Miss Bessie Hall, Mrs. Paul Rawson of Kelsey, Miss Olson, Mrs. Stewart Van Petten of Kelsey, Ohaton P.O.

Members of the Scott, Fox, Thirsk, Cunningham, Batke and Mackay families were among the first class of pupils to attend.

The school became the centre of community activities with an excellent Sunday school under the direction of Moses Kelsey. It was the centre of interest for years. The Christmas program was the highlight of the year. Rev. Tate was the first minister to hold church services there. He and Miss Daisy Scott of the Albury District were married when he returned from overseas following the first world war. Mrs. Tate resides in Edmonton. Following a service of half a century, school was sold by auction to Louis Reber of Rosalind and converted into a dwelling.

## 32 HORSES MOVE FERRY POINT HALL



Taken in 1921 when the Ferry Point Hall was moved to Rosalind. Nineteen men and sixteen teams of horses moved the hall over a 15-mile route in the winter to its present site.

## 52 Years of Crops

Robert Shaw, who came to Alberta from Grey County, Ontario, has farmed 52 years in Alberta without a crop failure, but his 53rd crop was a total failure, destroyed by hail. He filed on N.W. 4-45-18-W4 in 1902.

He recalls that he was hired to haul a load of gravel for a grain company to the town site of Bawlf. The company wished to secure a lot before it was surveyed. This was the start of Bawlf.

Bob Shaw came out to Alberta with his mother, four sisters, one widowed with two small children, and a younger brother. Two sisters were teachers, Elizabeth Shaw, (Mrs. Bill Magee) who taught at New Salem and Pretty Hill and Miss Victoria Shaw who taught at New Salem, Rosenroll and Schneiderville. She gave up teaching to care for her niece, following the death of her sister, Mrs. Bill Magee.

Mr. Shaw recalls an accident when he and his brother-in-law

were hauling lumber out from Wetaskiwin to their homesteads. Roads were cut through trees and they were riding on the running gears of the wagon. In driving over the stumps he was thrown from the wagon and the team ran away, the wagon passing over his body. They were caught by his brother-in-law and they got into Rosenroll. Here a bed was made on the wagon by tying poles together. His sister, though not familiar with driving horses, drove the team to Wetaskiwin, following her brother-in-law through the darkness. They arrived at one o'clock in the morning, where a doctor found him badly bruised but not seriously injured.

Bob Shaw has been a keen supporter of farm organizations including the F.U.A., and the Co-ops. Through this work he has worked with Miss Agnes McPhail and Robert Gardiner.

He is now farming at Kelsey with Henry Deutsch and his sister Miss Victoria Shaw as his partners.

# Klondyke Fever Lured Settler West

News that a party was being organized for a trip from Edmonton to the Klondyke attracted the attention of Sherman Fox and was responsible for bringing him out to Edmonton. He later found out the Klondyke trip wasn't what it was advertised and abandoned it.

Hearing of the wonderful land at Heather Brae he came out to investigate, liked what he saw and filed on a homestead. His land was the N.E. 28-44-19-W4, which was later Albury district. He and Mrs. Fox took up residence on their farm in 1900.

## FIRST TEACHER

Mr. Fox assisted in forming the Albury School district, and served it as secretary-treasurer for a period of 14 years. Mrs. Fox, who was the first teacher, added to her laurels of being an outstanding teacher, serving in that capacity the longest period, three years.

Mr. Fox recalls that the late Ludvig Peterson did the first stock threshing in the district on his farm. He and Mr. Peterson were looking at his field of oats. "They are ready to thresh", Mr. Peterson said, "if you can hustle dinner for a crew I will get men and teams and we will thresh this afternoon." The action was suited to the words, the men, teams and thresher arrived, dinner was ready. Before nightfall, over 4,000 bushels of oats had passed through the separator which was powered by a massive steam engine.

## MANY INTERESTS

Mr. Fox was a man that did not confine his interests to one place. Growing wheat in Alberta in the summer months and harvesting grapefruit and peanuts in Texas while his Alberta farm was held in winter's icy grip, was all taken in the stride of this active man. Mr. Fox owned a section of land in Texas and the Foxes spent 20 winters there. One year peanuts were raised on a whole quarter section of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox (nee Florence Augusta Dingman), were married in Picton, Ontario, Jan. 1, 1895. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary ten years ago and their Diamond Wedding, January first of this year. Mr. Fox was 83 years old last March 5 and is a descendant of the British United Empire Loyalists who came via New York State, U.S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox retired in 1928 and now reside in Camrose. Their son, Errol carries on the Fox name in the Albury-Kelsey district. A daughter, Helen (Mrs. Clare Christoferson) resides at Rochfort Bridge, Alberta. They sold their original homestead to a nephew, Harold Dingman.

# Vic Campbell Family

Arriving on May 24, 1893, Ralph Victor Campbell was one of the first homesteaders in the Camrose area. His homestead, 7 miles south of Camrose, is now the site of the View Point gravel pit, had been sold in 1897 to Z. H. Hills. He then followed the trail of new settlers and moved on east in 1899, his second location being five miles south of Daysland. This land was purchased by the Caribee-Hatley Ranch Company in 1901. By that time the Rosalind district was settling up and he moved to the northeast 26-43-17, the present home of the family.

Active in many phases of pioneer life, he freighted lumber and merchandise down Battle River through Dried Meat Lake to Ferry Point. Breaking horses and land was a full time activity. He recalls making a mercy trip to Wetaskiwin with a fast team for Dr. Baldwin during a diphtheria epidemic.

He saw the building of the CPR railroad in 1905 and the CNR through Ankerton in 1915. Mrs. Campbell (Miriam Keneppe) a pioneer of the Viking district, recalls

the building of the GTP through Holden. Her father moved to the district in 1902. Their home was destroyed by prairie fire the first year of the settlement and replaced by a building erected with the help of the neighbors. This home became the stopping place for settlers moving in. Her father established the first post office in the area now known as Viking and carried the mail from Wetaskiwin to Minburn, via Campbell's, Appleby, now known as Holden. She also was an early teacher and taught six years.

Vic Campbell is the last remaining member of a family of eight children who were born in Acton, Ontario. At the age of 5 years he left Ontario and went to Scotland, S.D.; at 13 years he rode a stock train from South Dakota to Pennsylvania. In 1903 he married Antonia M. Moeller of the Heather Brae district, their wedding dance being one of the first held in Carl Wabell's hall. In 1923 he married Mirian Keneppe. Five of their ten children are married, and all reside in Alberta but one.

# Early M.D. Councillor

## R. AND MRS. W.

R. Dingman and sons, Lester and Blake, were among the many settlers coming out to the Heather Brae (Albury) district in 1900. Their homestead was in southeast 29-44-19-W4. A daughter, Florence, (Mrs. Sherman Fox) also came out the same year.

Blake Dingman was one of the early councillors on the Evergreen Municipal Council Board. Many of the local roads first took shape under his direction. He was also a member of the Albury School Board for several years.

In 1903 at the age of 18 he took a homestead in the Spring Lake district and developed it along with his father's homestead. He travelled the thirty odd miles between the two homesteads with a team and wagon.

Lester, the oldest son filed on N.W. 4-45-19, now owned by Syd Thompson. He worked out in other districts for many years. He bought the S.W. 15-45-19 also N.W. 10-45-19. He married Jennie Innes, sister of the late John Innes of this district and James Innes, Warburg. Mrs. Dingman and daughters, Gladys, Evelyn, Florence and Muriel reside in Edmonton and the farm is being farmed by Joe Walline.

Blake Dingman married Agnes Innes, daughter of the late John Innes on September 1, 1918. They made their home on the original homestead which he bought in 1910 and built up a fine farm home. The kitchen of the original homestead home is still retained as a work shop on the farm now owned by Harold Dingman, grand-

son of the original owners.

## STRONG SWIMMER

Blake Dingman was a strong swimmer and often swam across Dried Meat Lake and back again. He enjoyed fishing in Dried Meat Lake and was an enthusiastic gardener, developing a fine garden and orchard on the farm.

Miss Elizabeth Shaw came out from Grey County, Ontario, as a school teacher in the "Territories". She purchased Half-Breed Script and through it purchased the S½, 34-44-19 now owned by her daughter, Mrs. L. Lockhart, Oyen, and farmed by John Nelson.

Miss Shaw was the first teacher in New Salem's little log school.

Bill Magee, came to Strathcona from Blythe, Huron County, Ont., in 1895. He homesteaded at Rabbit Hill in 1897, gave the homestead to a sister and made the Klondyke trip from Edmonton in 1898. Friends recall that he described the route of the Klondyke trail followed the present Alaska Highway, and that he had left a cache of food along the trail.

Returning home he purchased C.P.R. land near Edmonton.

In 1904 he and Elizabeth Shaw were married and having a preference to live on her own land, which she purchased through scrip, they moved there.

Mrs. Magee passed away when her daughter was born and Mr. Magee lived on his farm here for many years. Now 94 years old, he has been a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton, for the past twelve years.

Bill Magee and the late Fred Magee were brothers. Mrs. Bill Magee and Mrs. Fred Magee were sisters.

# Tamed Wild Game

The George Batke family, who farmed in Minnesota, came to the Albury district in 1901. Since that time they have taken an active part in all farm and district activities. Mr. Batke served on the Municipal Council, was a member of the Albury School Board and was interested in and active in all farm organizations.

Mr. and Mrs. Batke were married at Staples, Minnesota in 1892. They and their three children moved to Canada in 1901, filing on the S.E. 22-44-19 in the Albury district. Three children were born to the family after moving here. One son, Frank, served a year in the Armed Forces. Mr. Batke passed away on February 25, 1936.

Ruby (Mrs. Bill Clennin) resides in Camrose, Frank, Bertha (Mrs. A. W. Orr), Owen and Warren (farming the original homestead) all reside in the Albury and Kelsey district and Loren resides in Edberg.

Mrs. Batke recalls the hard work of building up a homestead, the plentiful supply of wild game, with prairie chickens predominating. They were so numerous and so tame they often fed with the chickens in the farm yard. They

were very good eating and often the backbone of the homesteaders' diet as they were easily killed, often by throwing a clod of dirt.

Wetaskiwin was their first supply point and later Heather Brae, which was only a few miles from their home.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Potter came to the Heather Brae-Albury district in 1901 and homesteaded. His land was N.W. 22-44-19 also N.E. 21-44-19, now owned by Steve Innes. Albury School was built on his farm. Mr. Potter was born in Maine and lived in Minnesota and South Dakota where he married Louisa Batke, sister of the late George Batke. Mrs. George Hillaby, a daughter, resides in Edmonton, Harry and Walter Potter were his sons. Mrs. Potter passed away in 1918 and Mr. Potter in 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cunningham and three small sons, Wilbur, Dean and Lyle, came from Milbank, North Dakota in 1902, spent a year at Wetaskiwin and moved out to the Albury district in 1903. They took the south route, driving out by team and crossing the lake by boat, (the Ferry Point ferry).

Their homestead was the S $\frac{1}{2}$  27-44-19 and is now the home of

Thomas Cunningham. Their first home was a log house on the Fox farm across the road from the present home of Harold Dingman. By spring they had built a small house on the north side of their homestead and replaced it two years later with a house where the present Thomas Cunningham home stands. Mrs. Cunningham nearly lost her life when the house burned down four or five years later. She returned to the house for articles of value and was forced to jump from an upper storey window to the ground. The house was replaced by the present home.

Two more children were born to the home, Thomas and a daughter, Alberta, but two were also lost to the home, Lyle in 1918 and Alta in 1919.

Shortly after their arrival the Heather Brae post office opened and the services of a grocery store blacksmith shop and other conveniences were added as well as the building of the Albury School, which simplified the problems of the pioneer families.

Both ministers and teachers boarded in the Cunningham home.

Mr. Ray Cunningham resides in Camrose, Mrs. Cunningham passed away in 1948 and their three sons, Wilbur, Dean and Thomas and their families reside in the Albury-Kelsey district.

## Settle Heather Brae Early

Heather Brae's first settlers came in twelve years ahead of the railroad and were nearly fifty miles from supply point and post office. They passed over the fifty intervening miles of land open to the settler, because it lacked some of the qualities they were looking for. Here they found good soil, the best of good black loam, fed by creeks and springs with trees, hills and grass in abundance. Here was the land of their dreams.

Compiled and written by Mrs. E. Hartman

### 62 YEARS AT HEATHER BRAE

Mrs. D. A. Williams, who was a member of the first family of settlers is the only person to witness the development of the district through its 62 years of growth.

Mr. and Mrs. James Stuart McDonald and their seven children, arrived in this district in 1893, hailing from Strolanis, Isle of Skye, Scotland, and became the district's first homesteaders. Mrs. Williams was nine years old (Annie McDonald).

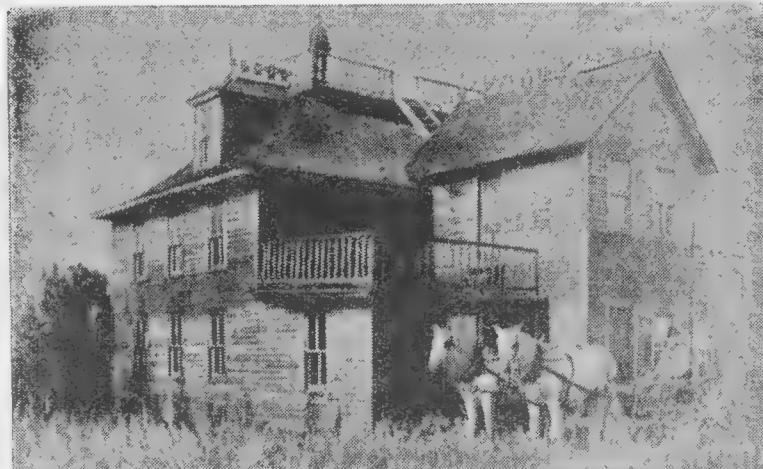
She has seen the land broken, first by the oxen breaking plough which was replaced by horse power. She has seen the advent of the steam power that broke large tracts of land in a single day with seven or eight furrows being turned at once by the breakers drawn by the massive engines. They were replaced by the cumbersome gas tractors now compact and handy also the modern Diesel Caterpillar tractor.

### WORKED IN FIELDS

The development of the grain

harvesting is even more significant. She assisted with this work on her father's farm when the sheaves were laid in a circle the heads in the centre, the grain being tramped out by the horses feet when one horse was ridden and a second led over the grain. The grain and chaff being separated by winnowing. She recalls how hard she and her brother Ed worked as youngsters, pitching the straw back from the first horse power threshing machines which lacked a straw blower and were fed from stacks the band on the bundles being hand cut. Cooking

## People Came Fifty Miles to Dance



The well-known hall that Carl Wabel built on Dried Meat Hill in 1903, where many a festive dance and party was held. In 1916 the new land owner tore down the hall and used the lumber to build a barn.

## HEATHER BRAE SCHOOL NO. 351



As near as can be established, this was the first school to be built anywhere in the Camrose division. Going by numbers, New Salem would be 3rd, Duhamel 4th. Early Scotch settler McDonald said all the braes lacked was a bit of heather — hence the district's name.

for the large crews that worked with the steam threshing outfits that replaced the horse power was a full time job. The gas driven threshers was an era all it's own.

### WATER HIGHWAY

She saw the town of Heather Brae spring up like mushrooms in the night the various businesses fed by a string of four horse freight teams, when the weather was dry. When it was wet and the roads became impassible. Battle River and Dried Meat Lake became a water highway for the transportation of merchandise. The town flourished and thrived. It served the settlers well, over a radius of many miles in all directions, then folded up, much as a bat folds its wings with the coming of daylight, when by-passed by the railroad in 1905.

The building that served as a store and post office is still giving service as a dwelling fifty years later, while across the corner stands the relic of a building that served as a blacksmith shop. Many years it served as a storage space for grain. Now, having outlived that usefulness it stands as a lonely monument to the days that were.

Among the articles that Mrs. Williams treasures are two Bibles given to her brother, Edward and herself by the Rev. John Biddle, the first missionary in this area, who held services from home to home in 1896.

### MEMORIES OF ISOLATION

In a district so new many people who reside here have seen its newness with their own eyes and have grown with it to see over half a century of development with those same eyes. They have memories of isolation and loneliness, of the hand clasp of new neighbors that bridged that loneliness, of courage, bravery, stamina and the spirit of the west.

## Fate Dealt Rude Blows

Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson Crawford, their three young daughters and Bob Crawford, came to the district in the spring of 1894. Their homesteads became the S.E. and S.W. 16-45-19, now part of the Williams property. Fate was unkind to the family as the mother passed away the first winter, leaving her three children. Jamieson's parents came out from Fergus, Ontario, to care for their young grand-daughters.

The grim reaper again laid a hand on the family, this time taking Mr. Crawford Sr., whose last resting place was a grave on the top of the creek bank overlooking the spot where the pioneers forded the stream.

Jamieson Crawford assisted with organizing the first Heather Brae school district, helped to build the school and was a member of the first board. His daughters were pupils in the first school class.

### RARELY SAW POLICE

The Royal North West Mounted Police are among the first memories of Mrs. Lauritzen (nee Dora Muller), now residing in Edmonton. She and a sister came with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ludvig Muller, to the Heather Brae district to homestead in November, 1894. She says: "The police were the law, but we rarely saw them at our homestead as we were on the eastern edge of the settlement, with no one living east of us."

The Muller's came up from the United States, arriving at Wetaskiwin in November, 1894. Their livestock was kept in quarantine at the border for three months and shipped later to Wetaskiwin. The 50-mile trip from there to the homestead was made in a lumber wagon. Mr. Muller had come out in the spring and had erected shelters for the livestock and con-

structed a home for the family to live in the first winter.

### ANIMAL FAT LAMPS

That first home was a dugout in the bank of Dried Meat Creek, part of the building being of logs. It boasted only one window, the door was made of canvas and blankets, and the floor was the prairie sod. No settlers' homes were visible from the little window, but they knew the McDonald's who lived three miles to the west, and the Schneiders three or four miles south. Lights for their home was a problem, and when the coal oil supply was exhausted they floated a cloth in a dish of wild animal fat which was lit, in the form of a torch.

Mr. Muller was a great hunter and kept the family well supplied with wild meat. He also was a taxidermist and mounted many of the animals as a hobby. There was an abundance of berries of all kinds, which Mrs. Muller preserved for winter use.

### BLEACHED BUFFALO BONES

"I well remember the first picnic at Dried Meat Lake. There was all of a dozen people there, but we all had a wonderful time with lots to eat and each other's company to break the monotony of living so far apart." She also describes the sight of acres and acres of bleached buffalo bones around Dried Meat Hill. Deep paths, made by buffalo, led from the hill to watering holes along Dried Meat Creek.

### CREEK BANK DWELLING

They constructed a second dwelling by digging part of it into the bank along Dried Meat Creek and completing it with logs and a sod roof, thus joining their neighbors in solving the problem of keeping bedding dry when it rained.

# Courage for Unknown

## LAND GUIDE FIRST SETTLER

James Stuart McDonald passed over the biggest share of Canada before choosing the Heather Brae district as his permanent home. To his work as Land Guide goes credit for the fact that this district, though fifty miles from a supply point and post office, was settled before any of the surrounding districts.

Encouraged by the glowing reports of Canada written by two of McDonald's sisters who had immigrated to Winnipeg, the family and their seven children with Mrs. McDonald's sister left the Isle of Skye, Scotland, to come to Canada in May of 1892.

The ocean crossing was uneventful and made in the record time of 13 days. They were met at Winnipeg by Mrs. McDonald's sisters and from there they went to Oxbow in the Souris River valley where the married sisters lived.

## DISCOURAGED WITH MANITOBA

Here they prepared for their first winter in Canada by building a framework of lumber and banking it over, sides and roof, with squares of prairie sod. The winter was long and severe, with lots of snow and wind and they were not happy in their new home. It was rather pleasant in the valley, but when they climbed to the crest of the hill and viewed the snowy landscape they were dissatisfied and in the spring decided to move on.

By this time he had acquired a yoke of oxen, two milk cows and other chattels, so he loaded a freight car and shipped out, arriving at Wetaskiwin in May.

## 50 MILES TO HOMESTEAD

Here he met David Harrison, who accompanied him east in his search for land. The families remaining in Wetaskiwin in the immigration tent. Nearly fifty miles of land was passed over before making the southwest of 14-45-19 his choice as a homestead, while his companion filed on the south-east of 20-45-19.

Their house the first year was a small log building with a sod roof. The first breaking in the district was done on their farm with oxen, and first threshing by laying the heads of grain in a circle and riding over them on horseback, leading a second horse. The grain and chaff were then separated by winnowing.

## THATCH FOR ROOF

The second year, a larger house was built and featured a thatched roof, Jerome LaBoucane assisting with the work. The hay was especially prepared by selecting long grass, cutting and tying it to keep it straight during fertilization. The children helped by mixing clay for plaster.

Grain was not cut with a binder on their farm until after 1901, with Joe Leeb hired to do the work.

The second log house was soon replaced by a spacious frame build-

ing, which became the stopping place for the many settlers moving in at the turn of the century. The original homestead is now farmed by Canadian-born, son Charlie, the youngest member of the family. The old home, recently rebuilt, is fully modern.

## GAME KEEPER

In Scotland, Mr. McDonald worked as game keeper. He did cabinet work, and also repaired clocks and watches. In Canada he worked as a land guide from Heather Brae to Killam and served as Justice of the Peace, with an office in Sedgewick for several years. He had the courage to face unusual problems, and

though untrained, he administered an anaesthetic for the late Dr. McEachern and other doctors when an emergency arose. No trained help was available. He was always prepared to give a helping hand to the new settlers.

Mr. McDonald passed away in 1921, and his wife in later years. Three members of their family still reside in the district: Annie (Mrs. D. A. Williams), Elsie (Mrs. Leon Valentine), and Charlie, farming the home place. John McDonald, Q.C., with his office in Edmonton, where he is well known; Polly McDonald in Calgary, Maggie McDonald and Edward in Vancouver, are other members of his family. Jimmie passed away in 1902, and Christina McDonald in 1941.



The second house of the Olson family of Heather Brae, that became the community center after the hotel was torn down.

## Help on Heather Brae School

Mr. and Mrs. David Harrison and their three daughters, who came from England, were also among the first settlers, arriving at the same time as the McDonald's. They contributed much to the development of the district, homesteading and helping to organize and build the first Heather Brae School. He was a member of the first school board and his three daughters attended the little log school with the leaky sod roof. The Harrison's, who were not related to the Harrison's presently living in the district, were lost to the community when they moved out at the turn of the century and were last heard of in Winnipeg—all contact with the family has been lost. For years their log house stood by the side of the road as a haven of refuge for many a weary settler moving in.

The Lindgren's and Carlson's came in 1901, and lived in the house the first summer while building their own homes. They write, "The old log shack stood beside the Battleford Trail and many people stopped overnight there."

The A. T. Schneider family, hailing from the U.S.A., homesteaded early in 1893, taking up land several miles to the south-east of the

McDonald family near the present town of Kelsey, and were the first settlers in that district. Their farm, known as the Schneider Ranch, is now being farmed by the N. McGowan family. The four elder members of the family, Augusta, Emma, Edith and Ted, attended the first Heather Brae school. The trip off 7½ miles was made across the prairie with a team.

At the turn of the century, settlers moved in, in ever-increasing numbers and the land around the Schneider homestead was soon taken up. A school was needed, as many of the young people were driving miles to attend at Heather Brae. Mr. Schneider's efforts were rewarded in a school being built nearby, and he was honored by the school being named Schneiderville in recognition of his work.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith came from Ontario and came on a homestead in Heather Brae district in 1894. Their land was the S.E. 24-45-20, on the banks of Dried Meat Lake, now owned by A. W. Beesley Jr. Jack Smith, a son, filed on the S.W. 30-45-19, now owned by Bill Bowes of Edmonton, and farmed by J. Branes.

# Sold Homestead

Vic Campbell, who proved his homestead south of Camrose and sold it to the late I. Z. Hills in 1897 remembers freighting lumber on Battle River and Dried Meat Lake.

Mrs. Tate, Edmonton, the former Daisy Scott, remembers attending their first church service in the home of Carl Wabel in the spring of 1897—while her sister, Mrs. John Crowe, one of the first babies born in the district, now retired to Camrose, remembers the sound of buggy wheels in the night. They were always coming for her mother, who nursed the sick in an area, Wetaskiwin to Daysland in the early days.

## UMBRELLA PROTECTS BOOKS

Mrs. George Bowie, Rosalind, (Edith Schneider), recalls the 7½ mile trip with a team of horses to attend the first Heather Brae School. The creek had to be forded and books protected by an umbrella when it rained as the sod roof leaked badly. Indians startled the teacher and pupils in class by shielding their eyes from the sun and peering through the window at them.

Mrs. Lauritzen, (Dora Muller), Edmonton, remembers their first house being dug out in the bank of Dried Meat Creek, it boasted only one window and a door of canvas and blankets. She remembers using a torch made of wild animal fat, a cloth burning in the centre, for light when they ran out of coal oil. Describing the first picnic at Dried Meat Lake, she says "There were all of a dozen people there but we had a wonderful time with lots to eat and each other's company to break the monotony of living so far apart."

Leon Valentine recalls a grass fire that originated in this district and burned across the prairie miles and miles to the southeast. The Valentines who had arrived early that spring, 1901, were living in a tent, the weather had been very hot and dry. Arising the morning of May 24 they found the prairie blanketed with 8 inches of snow, thus ending the prairie fire.

Louis Lambert saw the lumber for their house floated down thru the river and lake, built into a raft. His uncle threshed with the first horse power threshing machine in the district.

Mrs. Griffith, who was born, Nellie Fleming, on her father's homestead near Dried Meat Lake Hill, writes from her home in Winnipeg, "When people ask where I was born, I tell them at the foot of Dried Meat Hill". They never fail to be amused and intrigued by the name when I tell them Indians dried their meat on its top.

Mrs. Wm. Rhyason, who came to the Angus Ridge district, near the Hobbema Indian reserve in 1893 as a small girl, recalls the fear the sound of the Indian drum struck to her childish heart. The sound struck no fear to Mrs. J. B. Scott, residing here, she who had nursed them in their home, beat out an answer on the bottom of her dishpan.



Heather Brae Band helping out an early celebration held at Ferry Point.

## Women Courageous



LFRED John Seymour Deverell first visited Canada in 1892, making the trip as a companion to his uncle, Frederick Harold Deverell. He was so taken with the country he was determined to come back and take up a homestead as soon as he became of age. He was born to Alfred Deverell and Mary Seymour in Oxford County, England, on April 1, 1874. His father was a coal merchant. He arrived in Heather Brae district in 1895 and chose as his land the N½ of 32-44-19, also a fraction of 31-44-19, on the east shore of Dried Meat Lake, now owned by Les Thompson.

In 1904, he married Margaret Smith (sister of Geo. P. Smith), who had come out from Strathroy, Ontario. They were married in Wetaskiwin and the trip out to the homestead was the wedding trip. Arriving at the groom's farm they found his business partner, Joe Leeb, in the kitchen busily washing dishes and making everything spic and span for the arrival of the bride.

During the years, four children were born to the Deverell home. Alfred Frederick, Dorothy Margaret, Jessie Marion and Agnes Christine. Heather Brae school was the education centre they attended, and like most other pioneer families, the transportation of school children over the many intervening miles became a major problem for the Deverells.

A beautiful buckskin pony named Belle was purchased for the purpose of conveying the children by the two-wheeled cart method. This spirited and unpredictable animal did not discourage the family in their pursuit of the three "R's" as they all followed in their mothers footsteps and became teachers.

Fred is presently teaching in Saskatoon University; Dorothy (Mrs. Robert Lyseng), following a teaching career, resides in Camrose and part of the year on their Armena farm; Jessie teaches in Edmonton and Toronto, and Agnes (Mrs. James Walter Briggs), also a teacher, resides in Edmonton.

Mrs. Deverall died on June 17, 1942, Mr. Deverall March 27, 1946.

The Fleming homestead was near Dried Meat Hill and it was not uncommon for Indians to enter the house and bed themselves down on the kitchen floor. This usually happened when Mr. Fleming was away to Wetaskiwin for provisions, and Mrs. Fleming kept a watchful eye on the three small children until her husband's return, when he would send the intruders on.

Arthur William Fleming was born in Lancashire, England, on April 1, 1869. Before coming to Canada he was a Sergeant in the Imperial Army Medical Corps, serving in South Africa; also a member of the British Boot Secret Service Corps in Poland. He arrived at Heather Brae in 1898 and filed on a homestead near Dried Meat Hill, being the E½ of 19-45-19. The property still belongs to the family.

Mrs. Fleming, born Susie McCullaugh at Elmira, Ont., January 3, 1872, of Irish parents, was one of a clever family of eleven children, all of whom eventually came to Alberta. She came West soon teaching duties in the little log, sod roofed Heather Brae school. It was the only school in a wide area at that time.

Moving to Ohaton in 1907, the Fleming family contributed considerably to the development of the town. There they went into the lumber business in partnership with the late D. A. Hart, and Mr. Fleming added Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, and Insurance to his responsibilities. He also served the little town in the capacity of Mayor for a period of 34 years.

Writing of her mother, Mrs. Griffiths says: "Mother was most exemplary of the wonderful stamina and spirit of the pioneer women of the West—she cherished her days in the school room and she worked hard to make our home in the early days. She was a great help to father, who, as was often the case, was totally untrained for the rigors of homesteading."

Mrs. Fleming passed away September 5, 1927, and Mr. Fleming December 20, 1941 and their only son died in 1929. Nellie (Mrs. P. P. Griffith) resides in Winnipeg, and Lena (Mrs. H. E. Wheeler) in Cranbrook, B.C.

# Had No Settlers' Effects

Mr. and Mrs. John August Walline were married in Salina, Kansas, lived at Canton, Kansas, and came to Canada in 1900, homesteading the S.E. of 18-45-18, on the banks of Dried Meat Creek. The Walline's came to the district without a carload of settlers' effects to ease the burden of pioneering. Their first house was a log structure over a dugout and had a thatched roof.

Mr. Williams to fill the great need for teachers in the North West Territories. He helped fill this need for several years, and remained to develop one of the largest mixed farms in the district. Mr. Williams was born at Myrtle, Ont., on April 18, 1862. His father, D. L. Williams, came from Ireland to Canada at the age of 14 years. His mother, Mary Elizabeth Shearer, was born in Nova Scotia of Scotch parents in 1832.

Coming to the district in 1903, he taught school at Heather Brae for two years, and one year at Daresbury. During this time he gave freely of his talents towards Sunday School work. He assisted as a teacher in the class organized at Heather Brae by Moses Kelsey, his musical ability adding to the interest of the class. He was a member of the original Heather Brae.

The family group was extended to include the Granger, Marleau and Marchand families through the marriage of Melinda Lambert and Jerry Marleau in 1894, Elizabeth Lambert and Frank Granger, and Laura Lambert and J. Marchand.

The Marleau's homesteaded at Wetaskiwin and came to Heather Brae in 1902. They purchased three quarters from Section 21-45-19 and developed it into a well built-up farm, now owned by Mrs. Annie Williams.

The Granger's purchased the east half of 34-45-19, in the Horicon school district, and developed a fine, well-built farm which Mrs. Granger still owns. The land is being farmed by a son, Frank.

David A. Williams was one of the teachers who came out from Ontario.

They recall working out where they could find employment with wages about forty cents an hour, often paid off in farm produce. By 1904 they had purchased a team of oxen and later a team and wagon. First breaking on their land was done with oxen.

Joseph Lambert built the lumber for his first home on his homestead into a barge and floated it down through Dried Meat Lake and Dried Meat Creek to a point near their homestead. The land they chose is the N½ of 15-45-19 W4, which is along Dried Meat Creek and is being farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lambert, third generation of the family.

Joseph Lambert and Mary Gru-bord, both of French descent, were married at Minomee, Michigan, coming to Wetaskiwin in 1892. They resided there for several years, homesteading at Heather Brae in 1901, and moving to the district in 1902. Their first home was a large frame building, still being used on the farm.

Band, playing the cornet.

In 1906 he purchased the homestead of E. S. Rees, the N.E. of 9-45-19, which remains the home of the family. He worked hard developing the land. One of his greatest pleasures was brushing by hand and thus cleared many acres ready for breaking. He purchased land to add to his farm from time to time until he owned one of the largest farms in the district. At one time he owned all of the Dried Meat Creek valley from his farm to the lake, with the exception of a fraction (a distance of nearly two miles).

Mr. and Mrs. Williams were married on November 4th, 1907, at Wetaskiwin. Mrs. Williams was formerly Annie McDonald, a member of the first family to move to the district.

Mr. Williams passed away on February 19, 1949, and Mrs. Williams is still residing on the farm, which is being operated by sons Don and Kenneth.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Walkemeyer, who homesteaded in the Heather Brae district in 1900, filed on the N.W. of 22-45-19 W4. They sold the land to Wm. Bubeck in 1910 and went to Camrose to reside, buying the Heather Brae Hotel, now a well-known landmark.

Mr. and Mrs. Walkemeyer were unique in the fact they were privileged to celebrate their Golden and Diamond wedding anniversaries, and also reached their 66th wedding anniversary. The last years of their lives were spent at Royal Oak residence, Victoria, B.C.

While residing in this district they were credited with owning the

first binder, and it is reported that it tied sheaves with wire. They also owned the first steam threshing machine.

## HOMESTEADED IN 1901

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Kidder were among the early homesteaders. Their land is now owned by Harold Hillaby, who also lives on the farm. Mrs. Bill Hillaby is the Kidder's only child and, following their retirement to Edmonton the Hillaby family made the farm their home for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Kidder passed away in 1923-24 and were laid to rest in Melville cemetery.

## SCRIP LAND

Walter Haines was another pioneer who purchased a section of land through the purchase of Half Breed scrip at seventy cents an acre. He proved and broke his land and sold it to Richard and Lester Harrison in 1918 at \$18.00 an acre. The Lester Harrison family still reside there.

Harry Potts and Walter Putney were also early Heather Brae pioneers, and Ben Reid and the Byers family were pioneers in the Albury district.

## Shared Mail Trips

Brushing, breaking, developing a farm and building a fine home, nursing, gardening, horticulture, school, music, church and Sunday School, all received the attention and support of the J. B. Scott family, who settled in the district in 1896. Daisy (Mrs. Tate) says, "It has been most interesting to see a country develop. There were no conveniences in early days, and now many farmers have most of the conveniences formerly enjoyed only by urban dwellers."

Joe Scott left England in April, 1896, and came to Heather Brae district (later Albury). He filed on the S.W. of 20-44-19, on the banks of Dried Meat Lake. The usual log house with a sod roof was erected, as well as animal shelters. The family followed the same fall, Mrs. Scott and five children, Daisy, Edmund, Walter, Joe and Jessie, ar-



After the Wabel Hall was torn down, the district was without a community hall until 1932 when this log building was erected.

riving in Wetaskiwin on November 2, where they spent the first night in the Driard Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Scott went shopping for supplies the next morning. It was a beautiful fall day the day of their arrival, but snow started to fall next morning.

#### JACK HAYES, LAND GUIDE

Mr. Jack Hayes, land guide, drove them out to their homestead, with a stopover near Bittern Lake. They arrived home the evening of the third day and have always retained memories of the pancakes Mr. Hayes made.

The three younger children, exposed to scarlet fever on the boat, soon contracted the disease and were very ill. The fact that the family had milk, along with their mother's careful nursing, saved two-year-old Joe's life.

The first neighbor they met was Carl Wabel, and the first church service they attended was in his home in the spring of 1897. Mr. Deverell, Mr. and Mrs. Byers and Mr. Ben Reid were the only settlers in that area at that time.

#### CARED FOR SICK

Mrs. Scott's ability as a nurse soon became known. She had patients through the years from Wetaskiwin to Daysland, and nursed with Dr. McEachern and Dr. Stewart. She found it necessary to carry a patient out of the path of a prairie fire and was credited with saving many lives.

Mrs. Scott and son Joe were enthusiastic gardeners and showed an agricultural display at Camrose Fair which won first place four consecutive years. The George P. Smith (of The Camrose Canadian) trophy, awarded each year, thus came into the permanent possession of the Scott family.

Neighbors took turns bringing the mail from Duhamel, and Heather Brae became their post office at a later date. Three trips a year were made to Wetaskiwin for supplies, taking three days each time.

#### GOD'S SHINGLES

In 1898 the wet years set in, and the sod roof leaked badly, and continued to drip between showers. Despite this inconvenience, the family has kindly memories of the little log house and Mrs. Scott always referred to the sod roof as God's shingles. In 1902, it rained so much it was impossible to save any hay as it floated in the sloughs. A snowstorm on September 17th, added to the pioneers' problems, and it turned very cold.

Joe Scott attended high school in Camrose and went to war in 1915. He was reported missing in action in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. His loss brought great grief to the family.

#### LADY BARBER

The family recalls that the local bachelors were always invited to Christmas dinner, even the first Chrsitmas they were in Canada. Mrs. Scott became barber for the district people and often did the laundering for the bachelors.

House parties, skating parties on the lake, an ice-boat made by the boys of the family, all contributed to the good times the young people enjoyed.

# Horse Knew Shortcut In "Strip" Stake Race

Parker Rhyason homesteaded in Oklahoma, having staked his claim to the land through the race on horse-back from Kansas to Oklahoma when this method of settling the Cherokee strip was used. The race was run in 1893.

Two weeks before the appointed time, people came by the thousands in their covered wagons to await the great day. . . . One o'clock on a September afternoon the race was started at the crack of a pistol shot.

#### CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR

Out in the race, his rein broke and he was left far behind while making a repair; again entering the race, his horse insisted on taking a route through a canyon, and thinking his race lost he gave him his head, and was surprised to come out ahead. He found out later that the newly purchased horse had been raised there and knew the short cuts. He staked his claim and was able to hold it despite the fact there was much feuding and shooting and many lives lost. There was a money panic in the States in the 90's, and times were very hard . . . he made his livelihood carpentering for very small returns. In 1897 he ran for Senator in Oklahoma on the Democratic ticket and was defeated by the republicans with a majority of 40 votes.

#### GREEN GROVE

In 1902, the lure of the North West Territories got in his blood . . . he sold his holdings and came to Alberta. He bought a half section of land at Heather Brae,

and later homesteaded in the Green Grove district, a son, Art, taking an adjoining homestead, and a son, William, homesteaded in the Strome district.

In 1905-06, he erected some of the first buildings in Ohaton. His interests were in working for the good of his community and for the public at large. . . . Took a great interest in politics, and did considerable political speaking. He was president of the Green Grove U.F.A., and was president of the U.F.A. Camrose Constituency. . . . Was educated as a lawyer, and also taught school, but chose farming as his vocation.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rhyason, now retired to Camrose, were among the pioneers, Mrs. Rhyason coming to the Angus Ridge district at Wetaskiwin from Idaho in 1893. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilson, will be remembered by many living south east of Wetaskiwin, as their home was a stopping place for the settlers, and Mrs. Wilson was midwife and nurse for the settlers over a wide area for years.

Wm. Rhyason homesteaded south of Strome before the railroad. He and two other young homesteaders owned one horse between them and were able to make a sixty-mile trip to Wetaskiwin in a single day with one horse and co-operation. Two would walk, the third riding ahead and tying the horse up to rest, walking on while the other two took turns riding and walking. In this way all three were able to get to Wetaskiwin in one day.

# 1st Reeve of Evergreen

Andrew Lindgren came from California in 1901, and was the first reeve of the Municipal Council of Evergreen Municipality. He was instrumental in building many of the first roads in the district. Much of the road building at the turn of the century was accomplished by hand labor. Horse power with the fresno and scraper as a means of moving earth and building grades was slow and tedious and resulted in much heavy lifting by the men. It is recalled that the road past Tillicum Beach was built mostly by hand labour. The wages were so low, the work could almost be considered donated work.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lindgren and their seven children, accompanied by the Carlson family, came from California in 1901. Their homestead was the S.W. 22-45-19, and the Carlson's the N.E. 22-45-19.

The abandoned log shack, left by the David Harrison family on the farm now owned by E. Allen was the first home of the Lind-

gren's and Carlson's the first summer while building houses on their own land. They recall that it stood only a short distance from the Battleford trail, and many people stopped there.

Mrs. Lindgren's services as a midwife for the births of local babies was often sought, and she also prepared bodies for burial.

Fred Lindgren, now resident at Haney, B.C., still retains an interest in the district through his farm here, which is farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carstairs. Rev. Victor Lindgren resides in Edmonton, and the remaining members of the family at Haney, B.C. Carl Lindgren passed away several years ago.

Mr. Carlson passed away four or five years after coming to the district. Dr. McEachern performed an operation on Mr. Carlson in their homestead home, using the kitchen table as an operating table in an effort to save his life. He was buried in a plot along Dried Meat Creek. His homestead is now owned by Art. Lutz.



The original Heather Brae School, built in 1896, with Miss McCullough (Mrs. Fleming) as teacher. Children in this picture whose faces can be seen are (left to right): Toni Mueller, Maggie McDonald, Mary Crawford, Miriam Harrison, Christine McDonald, Jim McDonald, Billy McDonald, John McDonald and Maggie Crawford. The picture was taken by James McDonald.

## Barge, Raft, Not Horses

**S**ETTLERS equipment and supplies had originally been freighted across the country from Wetaskiwin. Anyone travelling to Wetaskiwin may still see the scar in the west hillside at Gwynne, a few rods south of the highway where the original freighter's trail crossed the Pipestone Creek. The hill is steep and the pioneers still describe the method of locking the wagon wheels with a chain to assure a safe passage for the heavy loads down the steep hill. They laughingly describe the fear the tenderfeet felt at making the trip and many turned back rather than take land beyond the treacherous hill. Late in 1901 and in 1902 the rainy season started and the wagon trail is described as being a continuous mudhole with ruts in the trail cutting to a depth of two feet.

Billy Phipps, Harry Phipps, J. Hamren, Charlie Behrens and others were names familiar on the trail freighting by 4-horse teams to Heather Brae when business was at its peak.

The Phipps's came from Lansing, Iowa, in 1900. Billy Phipps home-stead was S.W. 4-45-18, now owned by Dean Cunningham. Kelsey now stands on the same section. Both Billy and Harry went to Strome in 1905 when the town was starting to build up. Billy opened a grocery store, operated it until his retirement in 1944. He passed away July 2, 1946. Brother Harry still oper-

ates his hardware there.

J. L. Hamren homesteaded the S.W. 34-45-19, now owned by Arne Rosland. Mr. Hamren was a familiar figure in early days in this district. He was instrumental in organizing Horicon School District. Mrs. Hamren resides in Camrose with her son Brian. The Wayand Hamren family have resided for years in the New Norway district.

Charlie Behrens homesteaded the N.E. 14-45-19 in 1901, now owned by Mr. Bruce Sr. They later purchased the half-section now owned by Vernon Roth. They resided there until Mr. Behrens passing in 1928. Mrs. Behrens went to reside with a daughter, Ethel, Mrs. John McGibbon in Toronto and passed away in March 9, 1938.

Sawmills had opened for business in several locations, making lumber available and in very heavy demand by the influx of settlers. Roads became impassable and freighting by barge and raft became a fast and efficient means of transportation for two or three years centering on 1902.

Vic Campbell who was active in this work gives an interesting description.

In 1902 the water was approximately thirty feet deep any place you wanted to go on the route, with willows along the bank being under water except for the tops. Lumber was built into barges with various types of goods and merchandise transported on top of the structures."

"Locomotion for barges was

supplied by the river current and wind, sails being erected to speed the rafts along. Long poles were used to direct them along the course, the men working from each side. During high water the transportation was made with little effort and few difficulties. In low water locomotion by shoulder strap was often resorted to. In this method a man waded, drawing the barge by towline fastened to shoulder straps. One man could supply the power to tow a barge.

Mr. Campbell went on to explain that all trips were made when lumber was the main material to be moved. It was built into barges to be dismantled on arrival. On one of these lumber barges, 500 bushels of oats were safely moved to Ferry Point. He and Tom Tate made this trip resulting in considerable towing.

### RAFTS BUILT AT GWYNNE

Most of these rafts were built at Gwynne, the lumber having been hauled out to there. It was floated down the Pipestone Creek into Battle River and from there through the lake. Some of the barges were floated on down the river to Ferry Point, others were brought up Dried Meat Creek to a spot on the Williams farm.

The Peterson Bros. were also active in transporting supplies on the lake. Their work was mostly towing of barges with their 30-foot motor boat which was powered by a small steam engine.

Their work was with the Mullen Lumber Company that owned a sawmill in the Pigeon Lake area and were transacting business from Millet. Most of this lumber went to Heather Brae townsite.

## Log Home Became Community Hall

The first pioneer home of the Benjamin Olson family of Kansas was built by William Descheneau. It was replaced by a larger log structure that became the Community Centre for Heather Brae and Daresbury districts for the intervening years, 1915—when the Carl Wabel hall was dismantled—until 1932 when the present Heather Brae hall was built.

Arriving in Wetaskiwin on April 17, 1898, Mr. Olson was a member of a delegation sent out from Kansas to make a survey of land conditions in Alberta. Other members of the party were Holt, Nelson and Brumsell. The party took land at Buffalo Lake where Mr. Brumsell decided he couldn't make a living in Canada and returned to Kansas. Mr. Olson's land had too much slough and he left it. He was driven to this district by Jack Hayes, Wetaskiwin land guide. The S.E. 18-45-19 drew Mr. Olson's favor, lying west of, and adjoining Dried Meat Hill.

Mrs. Olson and sons Carl and Emmanuel and daughters, Selma and Tillie, arrived in Wetaskiwin October 24 of the same year. Their car of settler's effects was shipped with Olaf Swanson in charge. The family drove out to the farm in a lumber wagon taking the south route and crossing Battle River near Duhamel at a point near the Francois Adam store. Carl and Emmanuel Olson were members of the original Heather Brae band.

Olaf Swanson filed on N.W. 18-45-19. He and Selma Olson were married on April 30, 1902. Three daughters were born to them, Myrtle, (Mrs. Ralph Myers) who passed away at Lamont; Irene, passed away from diphtheria in 1907 at the age of 2½ years; Stella (Mrs. Harold Mortenson) resides in Camrose.

### BAND MEMBER

Mr. Swanson was a member of the original Heather Brae band and an accomplished violinist. We recall an incident in 1927 when a party of young people desired Mr. Swanson's services playing for a dance at a house party in the Dried Meat Lake district.

The family circle was broadened to include August Miller by his marriage to Tillie Olson. Mr. Miller, born in Pennsylvania, on Oct. 3, 1875, came to Canada in 1901 taking a homestead near Ohaton.

### TILLICUM BEACH

He and Mrs. Miller opened up the summer resort at the present Tillicum Beach which became a picnic spot for surrounding towns and districts for miles around. Open air church services were often held there.

## Six Bits Cash in Pocket

Joe Leeb arrived in Wetaskiwin with a small amount of settler's effects, a large family, and 75 cents cash. "I worked out", he said, "I had to".

By the co-operation of the family, and hard work, they owned a herd of sixty head of cattle in nine years and eventually built up a farm of nine quarters of land.

"My first house cost \$10.00", he said, "it was a log house with a sod roof . . . the lumber I used was bought at Hill's saw mill, and the windows and doors cost a total of \$1.00".

My oldest son, Martin, did the breaking on the homestead with horses and a twelve-inch breaker. He was so ambitious, he even broke the road allowance. "I'm sure it was the first road work in the district", he laughed.

Joe and Mike Leeb, brothers of Henry Weller and Mr. Rahn, came out from the States with their families in 1901 and filed on the land in section 24-45-19, each taking a quarter of land. Joe Leeb's land is now owned by Mrs. Elder, Mike Leeb's by the Pete McLeod family. Mike Leeb bought the quarter owned by Henry Weller.

Joe Leeb sold out because the farm was so far from school, and went to Heisler, where he rented three quarters of land. Mike Leeb went to Heisler in 1915 and bought a half section of land.

Mike Leeb recalls the trip out from Wetaskiwin to the homestead. He and Mike each had a load of machinery. They had to ford the Pipestone. Joe was ahead and he made the crossing fine. The water was rising, but still in the bed of the creek. Mike, who was following, found the flat flooded for some distance when he arrived. He crossed safely, but with difficulty. While making their breakfast, a young couple came from the east, leading a beautiful saddle horse behind a wagon. The water had raised considerably in the short period of time after the Leeb's had crossed. The young couple attempted a crossing, the saddle horse swam around to the side of the wagon and the wheel turned the lead rope down under the wheel. They were unable to stop, and when arriving at the west side of the creek found the horse had drowned.

At Heather Brae, he was a member of the Schneiderville School Board, and served a two-year term at Sterns School (Heisler). He was offered the municipal council position, but found his farm work too interesting to neglect for civic responsibilities.

Joe Leeb, who retired to Camrose in 1947, will celebrate his ninetieth birthday next August 31. Several members of his family reside in various parts of Alberta, including Camrose, Strome and Heisler.

## Peterson Was Developer



UDVIG Peterson was a developer, his neighbors have all said. In the ten short years of his life left him after arriving at Heather Brae he perhaps contributed more to the development of this district than any other man.

Swedish born, Mr. and Mrs. Ludvig Peterson were married in Arlington, South Dakota, in April of 1883 and became well established in farming there.

The Hudson's Bay offer of land at \$1.00 an acre to prospective Canadian settlers kindled Mr. Peterson's interest in ranching and appealed to his adventurous spirit. With a family of 8, the eldest 4 boys, prospects of a thriving family ranching enterprise where land was plentiful and cheap spurred his actions. He made several trips to Canada and purchased land in the Heather Brae area. The fall of 1901 brought Mrs. Peterson with him to look the country over and added to his real estate with a further land purchase.

Mr. Peterson's interest in the lake and the building of a thirty-foot motor boat powered with a 1½ h.p. steam motor, fired with wood, became his hobby. It carried 30 passengers and became a means of transportation for persons wishing to cross the lake where bridges

were unknown, was also used as a means of power for pulling barges on the lake as well as a pleasure boat.

Mrs. Peterson's death on June 25th of 1904, followed in three months by the death of tiny Lillian Mae, was a blow to the family. Their resting place became a small plot near the farm home.

In 1906 Mabel Huff became Mr. Peterson's second wife and members of the second family were Walter, Marion and Lawrence.

Through the marriage of Alma, Clarence Gretum was added to the family circle in 1912. He was a steam engineer at Rosenroll coal mine and steam engineer for two years at Lacombe. He and Mrs. Gretum returned to farm with the Peterson Bros., and have continued in that work, building a fine modern farm. They also have contributed to the development of the district through the operation of machinery, doing custom work, breaking, threshing and combining. For several years Clarence was a councillor and one of his efforts was to build a good road through this municipality that would line up with others north and south, as an encouragement of the area. People recall that the road along Dried Meat Lake summer resort can be credited to him and Andrew Lindgren, the first reeve here.

# Dread Disease in '02

In 1902, a diphtheria epidemic broke out in the immigration channels in Wetaskiwin and spread with the new settlers east through the settlement. The disease, most dreaded by early settlers, was in a most severe form, and families moving in, who were still unsettled, were particularly effected. Even now there is many a "catch" in the voice of narrators telling of the losses and sorrow it caused, and tears in the eyes of the listeners over fifty years later.

Among the families suffering most from the ravages of the disease were the Conrad Schweer and the Benson families who were moving in near the present town of Rosalind.

Mrs. George Batke, and also Vic Campbell, who have vivid recollections of the early days, recount some details of the epidemic. The Conrad Schweer family were stricken with the disease while they were en route from Wetaskiwin to their homestead. The father and son had each started out with a load of settler's effects, part of the family remaining in Wetaskiwin. Stops were made en route at the I. Z. Hills and J. C. McDonald farms. While at the McDonald farm, word reached Mr. Schweer that a son left in Wetaskiwin was seriously ill. He hurriedly retraced his steps, but on arrival found that his son had passed away. Returning to the McDonald farm, he was stricken with the news that his son there had also passed away.

The Benson family, resident a mile from East Lynn school, near Rosalind, was the family suffering most heavily of all local families. Vic Campbell made a mercy trip to Wetaskiwin, a distance of over sixty miles, for a doctor. He left at two o'clock with a fast driving team to get Dr. Baldwin and serum in an effort to save the lives of several of the Benson children, who had contracted the disease. Water was very high that year and there was only one spot, the crossing at the Muller farm, where it was possible to ford Dried Meat Creek. The trip out was made without mishap and with Dr. Baldwin the journey was nearing completion at six o'clock the next morning. While fording Dried Meat Creek on the return journey, a near tragedy occurred. The team floundered in the deep water just as they reached the south bank and in the ensuing struggle broke the buggy pole. Dr. Baldwin and Vic Campbell were both thrown into the water. Dr. Baldwin, who was handicapped by a crippled leg at the time, went under and Vic Campbell, who was trying to assist him, was also pulled under. Both men, the horses and buggy finally reached the bank safely. The Ludvig Muller home was near at hand and after a quick change of clothing and a bracing cup of coffee they were soon on their way. The serum reached the family in time to save two of the six children stricken. Later in the day the buggy pole was repaired and they returned to Wetaskiwin.

Settlers who became terrified by the disease, lost the good neighbor

spirit through their fear. Mr. Benson, lacking a team to convey the caskets of his children to their burial plot on the farm, approached a neighbor for the loan of horses for the purpose. Fear forced the family to refuse. Mr. Benson and a son pulled the caskets with a strap around them to the burial spot.

The North West Mounted Police came out and quarantined the families. For some reason, unexplained, they failed to return to lift the quarantine. Weeks later, the Benson family broke quarantine. Mr. Benson said, "We lived on black coffee for weeks. I just had to break quarantine, we couldn't stand it any longer. The Benson's now reside at Lea Park, Alberta.

Other families contracted the disease, among them the J. S. McDonald's, with the loss of one son, Jim. Ellsworth Hills recalls that their family was exposed to the disease through settlers stopping there, but were fortunate enough not to contract it.

## Wabel Hall on Dried Meat Hill

Carl Wabel was one of the district's earliest settlers, coming out in 1893, first to look the country over and a second time a year later to remain. He took up residence on the N.E. 9-45-19, along Dried Meat Creek and in a short time added several more quarters of land to his holdings, the section of land embracing Dried Meat Hill, about three miles east of Heather Brae. Here he built a hall that was to become the centre of social activities over a wide area for many years, and stories of the picnics, dances and the band are still remembered and told by dozens of people who enjoyed themselves there. The opening picnic and dance was held in 1903, Saby's orchestra supplying the music.

The old-timers tell of coining a distance of 40 and 50 miles to attend a picnic, stayed to spend two or three days fishing in the lake, making a real holiday of the occasion.

The band Mr. Wabel organized was the centre of attraction and added interest not only to social activities on the hill but to celebrations in Camrose and other towns when they were being developed. It is recalled that their first drum was a cowhide stretched

over a wagon wheel. Members first wore blue caps trimmed with braid and many are still treasured by former band members. Blue coats with rows of silver braid across the fronts were added to the uniforms in later years and made a colorful display when the band played from an upper balcony in the hall. Members of the band were Carl Wabel, D. A. Williams, Carl and Emmanuel Olson, Olaf Swanson, Dave Frank and Carter. In later years other members were added.

The logs that went into the building were spruce logs hauled from a spot along Battle River near Ferry Point, the building itself contained a fine dance floor, an inside upper balcony where activities on the floor below might be viewed from the higher floor. There were also outside balconies built onto the building.

Carl Wabel came from Haiger, Hessen, Germany, to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit relatives. Hearing about the country here, he came out to look it over, returned to Cleveland for a year and then decided to settle here.

In 1908 he moved to the hill, taking up residence near the hall, and in 1910 he sold the farm he had been living on to Hugo Schoekes, who had been working for him. Emil Pilger came out from Germany the same year, worked for Mr. Schoekes a short time and he and his brother Otto purchased the farm. A few years later they bought the section the hall was on. The hall was torn down in 1915. Emil Pilger and family still reside on this land.

Carl Wabel lived for a few years in Camrose and Mrs. Wabel passed away there. Following a second marriage he went to Germany to attend a wedding of a niece and passed away while there. His second wife passed away in Vancouver later.

## LEGEND FROM TRIBAL WARS

The naming of the hill is connected with an interesting Indian legend told to the first settlers.

There was a continuous enmity between the Cree Indians and the Blackfoot tribe that inhabited this area. It was against the laws of both tribes for a member to marry into the other tribe. However, human nature being what it is, a young Cree brave and a Blackfoot maiden fell in love and rather than be parted decided to brave the wrath of their respective tribes and ran away together. They found a cave in the side of a large hill overlooking a lake and here they lived happily.

Game was quite plentiful but as they did not wish to have their hiding place discovered they went hunting only when necessary and in order to preserve their meat they cut it in strips and dried it in the sun.

A Cree Indian, happened to pass one day, saw the meat drying in the sun, and the couple were discovered. They were duly punished and it was from this incident the hill, lake and creek got the name of Dried Meat.

# Two-Storey Hotel in '03

The Heather Brae hotel and livery barn was built by Jim Kadlec in 1903. Lumber was bought from a sawmill on Crooked Creek, three and a half miles north of Gwynne. It was moved a few rods to Pipestone Creek, built into a barge and floated down to a point a mile from the Heather Brae townsite. Bob Mutch, a homesteader south of the river, and south of Camrose, was carpenter in charge.

The building was a two-storey structure with eight bedrooms and a small parlor on the second floor, dining room, bar, kitchen and living quarters on the first floor. At one time Dr. McEacheran's office was installed in the little parlor on the second floor. Following the building of the doctor's office adjacent to the hotel, it became a dentist's office with Dr. Shea the dentist. Dr. Shea, a Camrose dentist, was not in constant practice here, having established certain days to be present each week or month.

## TAXED TO CAPACITY

Business was good as there was a constant movement of settlers coming in. The hotel and livery barn was taxed to capacity each night, the guests would move out and new ones would take their place the next night. Business was done in good round figures. The soda dispenser used in the bar was obtained as a premium with an order for \$500 worth of cigars. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting the building.

## THREE BLACKSMITH SHOPS

Three blacksmiths served the settlers for the few years that Heather Brae was active as a settler's shopping centre. Mr. Dietrich was the first blacksmith to shoe the feet of dobbin and keep the wagon tires solid. His health was not at its best in the blacksmith shop so he sold his business to Tom Facey, and went to the Heisler district to farm.

Wm. Henry Douglas, who homesteaded in the Dried Meat Lake district also opened a blacksmith shop there. The building was just north of the store and still stands there as a reminder of the days gone by. Mr. Douglas worked at his trade from his homestead, and when necessary to stay over, lived in the blacksmith shop.

## FEED MILL BUILT IN 1904

The Peterson Feed Mill ground feed and a coarse grade of flour for settlers in a large area from its new location at Heather Brae. It had previously served in the same capacity on the Peterson's farm at Arlington, South Dakota, the stone burrs being shipped to Wetaskiwin as part of four car-loads of settlers effects.

Lumber for construction of the building was hauled out from Wetaskiwin. Mr. Peterson and his three sons, Henry, Alfred and Emil operated the mill, living on their farm and working days at the mill. The rush of business at times often made it necessary to hire extra help.

The building of the railroad in 1905 and development of other sites caused the mill to close down in 1910, having given five years of service at this point.

## RAILROAD JINXES HOTEL

The railroad coming in 1905 transferred the interest to a new area, and the hotel was closed in 1906 or 1907. The building became the object of a real estate deal with Ludvig Peterson becoming the new owner, trading 80 acres of land. Dr. McEacheran's office was removed and built onto their house to become the family dining room. Following another real estate deal, this time commanding a quarter section of land as the price, it was moved to Ohaton where it continued as a hotel. It was eventually burned down.

Jim Kadlec and Hladiks came from Iowa in 1899. They immediately purchased land in the Wetaskiwin district. After he built the hotel, his brother-in-law, Tony Hladik, was his right hand man for two years. He did the freighting, making a trip at least once in two weeks to Wetaskiwin and had charge of the bar.

After closing out his hotel he built a hotel in Bawlf, with a brother-in-law, Smith, as partner.

Mrs. Kadlec, the former Emma Hladik, passed away in November of 1954. Daughter Mary is presently teaching at Lethbridge and a son, Edward, travelling for Liggett's Drug Co., resides in Toronto, the married name of Arlie is unknown. Mrs. Frank Forster of Camrose is a niece.

## DRIVES FOR DOCTOR

Tony Hladik made many trips driving Dr. McEacheran out on his numerous calls. In speaking of the Spring Lake country, he explains that it meant anywhere from a few miles east of Heather Brae to a distance of 30 or 40 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. Hladik have developed a fine farm north-east of Wetaskiwin.

# Schneiderville S.D.

There were a number of school children in the Schneiderville area without school. They attended at Heather Brae between 1896 and 1903, some of them going a distance of 7½ miles.

Parents held meetings and organized the district, building the school on section 17-45-18 in 1903, the first homesteader in the district, August Schneider, being honored

by the school being named Schneiderville.

Members of the first school board were August Schneider, Walter Putney and Charlie Behrens.

Susan Throok, Peterborough, Ontario, boarded in the Schneider home and taught classes the first year, completing the term despite severe loneliness and homesickness. Second teacher was Arthur Knox and the third was Rock McMillan, who was very musical and gave music lessons as well.

## 20 PUPILS FIRST YEAR

There were twenty pupils the first years with members of the Schneiders, families of Joe and Mike Leeb, Wallines, Rahn and Behrens, attending.

The school became the centre of social activities in the district with dances, parties, school concerts and church services being held there.

After a service of 26 years the school was closed, the district being incorporated into the Kelsey district. The building was sold to Blackwell Bros., and converted into a dwelling on N.E. 21-45-18-W4.

# First Postmaster



THE NAME of Valentine was recently chosen as the new name for the United Grain Growers Mile 10 grain elevator. The elevator has been at Mile 10 since it was first built in 1928, but the name proved somewhat confusing. In selecting a new name, the company wished to honor a pioneer family and thus chose Valentine, in honor of Charlie Valentine, first postmaster in this district.

The Valentine family originally came from London, England, to the United States in 1830. The late Charles Valentine was born in Pennsylvania in 1858, and in 1884 he and Miss Ida Ediesdale were married in Iowa. He homesteaded in South Dakota the same year. In 1901 the family, including two sons, Ira and Leon, immigrated to Canada and took up homesteads in the Heather Brae district. Part of the farm was bought by purchasing Half-Breed scrip at sixty cents an acre. It was the custom to register the land free, the purchase price being paid to the party owning the scrip.

## HEATHER BRAE STORE

They built on the N.E. of 10-45-19, the building becoming a general store and post office. It became the supply centre for a large area and many still speak of it as the meeting place of the community. The store was closed in 1906, following the building of the railroad, and Mr. Valentine opened a hardware store in Bawlf. He retired in 1920 and passed away in 1928.

His son, Leon Edward Valentine, and Elsie Rose McDonald, Canadian born daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. McDonald (the first settlers in the district) were married in Wetaskiwin in 1916, and have been continuous residents on the S.W. of 11-45-19 ever since.

Mr. Valentine recalls living in a tent the spring they arrived. It was a very hot spring and the grass dry. A prairie fire burned through the district and off to the southeast. Six inches of snow falling on May 24, practically buried the tent but quenched the prairie fire.

Coming to the district as a boy of 12, he has vivid recollections of life around his dad's store and of Heather Brae as a town. He homesteaded six miles north of Bawlf.

His brother, Ira, was lost to the family in 1910. Son Stuart resides in the original Valentine home, and a daughter, Nellie (Mrs. Ron Birney) resides in Calgary.

The opening of the Valentine General Store late in 1901 on the N.E. of 10-45-19, heralded the formation of a town. It was not a planned and surveyed town, but one that had sprung up in the middle of a hustling, bustling settlement, out on the prairie fifty miles from their supply point and post office. When road allowances were established, it was found the Peterson Feed Mill had operated from a location that was on the

road allowance north from the Valentine store.

The town took the name of Heather Brae from the school district established in 1896 as Heather Brae No. 351. Its location was a mile to the west and a quarter of a mile across Dried Meat Creek.

The J. S. McDonald family had applied for a post office charter, intending to handle the mail in their home. This area was then the North West Territories. Considerable time was required to complete business of this sort through Ottawa. It was not until the following year that the charter was granted. Now that the store had been established, Mr. McDonald felt it was a more desirable location, so turned the charter over to Mr. Valentine, and it became known as Heather Brae as well.

The years 1900-01-02 witnessed an influx of settlers never dreamed of. Many were moving on east. It was during this time that a store was established at Ferry Point by the late George P. Smith. Spring Lake and the area around Bawlf and Ohaton were settling in 1902. There

was still no signs of building the railroad that had been surveyed since 1885 to 1888. The towns of Ohaton and Bawlf were still unknown.

#### 800 SETTLER CARS STRANDED

Tom Courtney describes the rush of settlers as he saw it. "I saw 800 cars of settlers' effects, including livestock, stranded at one time at Portal, North Dakota. We heard lots of growling, cajoling and cursing, but there just wasn't anything to produce locomotives where there were none to be had. When we came on from Portal, we passed through a severe snow storm. The locomotive pulled part of the train through, taking our car of settlers' effects with it. It was unable to get back for the rest of the cars and it was two days before I caught up to the rest of the train to care for the livestock. The slow journey, over the rough roadbed, nearly drove one frantic. I vowed if ever I reached my destination I was quitting. Of course we had signed to stay a year and by that time we were becoming established and had forgotten the hardship."

### THE HEATHER BRAE HOTEL



Built in 1913 by Jim Kadlec with lean-to which he built as an office for Dr. McEacheran. Left to right: Bill Eggleston, Jim Kadlec, Tony Hladik, young Edward Kadlec, Annie Hladik, Mary Dombush (Mrs. W. Bowes), J. S. McDonald, Bill Regan.

### FIRST HOSPITAL IN NEW AREA

Dr. McEacheran stood shoulder to shoulder with the pioneer settlers, built the first hospital between Wetaskiwin and Saskatoon, and built up a large practice over a wide area. He brought Dr. H. S. Shirriff out from Ontario to take over the Daysland practise and they worked as partners for several years.

Dr. Isaac Whitney Taylor Mc-

Eacheran was born in Cumberland, Russell County, Ontario, May 26, 1875, of humble Christian parents. Endowed with a determination to succeed and a driving force overcame many obstacles, he, at the age of 11, chose medicine as his life's work. He entered high school at Van Kitek Hill and graduated from McGill University in 1903. He came west in 1904 and settled ahead of the railroad, forty miles east of Wetaskiwin, at Heather Brae. The nearest doctor east of him was at Saskatoon.

#### 15 BED HOSPITAL

He soon built up a large practice and in 1907 built a 15-bed hospital in Bawlf. Here he remained until 1915 when he went to New York for post graduate work. In February 1917 he moved to Edmonton and was soon appointed to the surgical staff and the teaching staff of the University Hospital. In 1919 he was given a fellowship of the American College of Surgeons and was one of the first four in northern Alberta to receive this honor. In 1927 he took



Still standing, the Heather Brae store built by Valentine, was the first store east of Duhamel. Also served as a post office.

special surgical work in Vienna, Austria.

Dr. McEacheran endeared himself to the hearts of the people through his efforts to cope with the many problems a pioneer doctor is required to face in a new country. He performed operations on kitchen tables in the homestead shacks, which were poorly lighted. He had to press into service untrained help to administer anaesthetics at times. J. S McDonald helped during one operation, working carefully under the doctor's instructions. There wasn't any trained help to be had in the whole country and emergencies arose. Mrs. J. B. Scott was a nurse who was of great help to him here.

He brought Dr. H. S. Shirriffs from Ontario to take the practice at Daysland soon after opening the hospital in Bawlf, the two worked in partnership a number of years.

#### FIRST OFFICE

His first office here was the tiny parlor on the hotel's second floor where he set up a small dispensary. A second office was built adjacent to the hotel which served him as a boarding place. Money was scarce in those days and at one time he took 2 small pigs in payment of an account. They were promptly turned over to Mr. Kadlec, the hotel owner, on his board bill.

In Bawlf his first office was in the back of Joe Paulson's Drug store and was later built next to the hospital when the building was completed. He was able to staff the hospital with trained nurses by that time.

#### FIRST PROBATIONER

Cora McWhirter, who was the first probationer in the little old hospital on Edmonton's south side, which was the beginning of the University Hospital, took up nur-

## 50 Mile Mail Route

Edward S. Rees made the first trip the spring of 1903 carrying mail from Duhamel to Heather Brae. He was given a government contract to make one trip a week with mail soon after the post office was established in C. Valentine's general store. "I had to ford the creek at Duhamel and Heather Brae many times when the flats were flooded," he writes from Hammondsport, New York.

#### TWO ROUTES

He continues, "In February of 1905 a change was made, Mr. Cowan drove the mail from Wetaskiwin to Heather Brae and my new route was from Heather Brae, east to Ferry Point, Spring Lake and to Youngstown (north of Strome). The trip took me three days for the fifty mile route, my wages were \$120.00 every three months and I added a bit to my salary by carrying passengers and luggage."

"There were no 'laid-out' roads at that time, only wagon tracks, and always danger of prairie fires. The district was sparsely settled between Heather Brae and Youngstown, I often had to drive late at night to find a place to stop, and when the snow was deep I was late, often a whole day late, in making my trip."

"I was strong and healthy then and could stand a lot", he added. Mr. Rees loaded a car at Langdon, North Dakota, with stock, machinery and household goods and billed it to Wetaskiwin in 1901. He was accompanied by Mrs. Rees and three small sons, who could not find a place to stay, on arriving in Wetaskiwin but the skating rink.

Later they moved to a farm at Pipestone Creek. Mr. Rees and two other men started out in a covered wagon looking for land. The first night they camped at Stoney Creek and the next day at noon at Dried Meat Creek. Here they met J. Crawford who told them of land still open for homesteading. Mr. Rees who was looking for land with a creek running through it, so he bought a C.P.R. quarter and filed on one adjoining it. They lived in a vacant shack and built their own house in 1902.

Following the building of the

sing duties in the Bawlf hospital in September of 1909. She married Dr. McEacheran in 1913. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McWhirter, came to the Camrose district in 1895 and took up a homestead two miles east of the present Camrose. Mr. McWhirter came from Scotland to the U.S. when 23 years of age. He and Mrs. McWhirter were married there and with nine children he thought Canada was the place to live as he loved the wide open spaces. He and a brother came out in the spring, Mrs. McWhirter and the children arriving at the homestead Christmas Eve the same year. Mrs. McWhirter organized the first Sunday School in the district and she and the children often drove a distance of nine miles to meet in the homes.

railroad in 1905, Mr. Rees sold his homestead to D. A. Williams in 1906 and the family still reside on the farm. Mr. Rees went to Ohaton where he built the first livery and feed stable and established the first place to serve meals. He recalls, the first Methodist church services held in the new town were held in his house and first school classes were also held there until the school was built. He was a member of the first Ohaton School Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Rees now reside at Hammondsport, New York. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in October of 1954. Mr. Rees, who is 84 years of age, retired from active work three years ago, he is quite well and strong, cares for a garden, walks a mile to church and to get the mail. Mrs. Rees is a sister to Mrs. Hillaby, Sr., Edmonton (mother of Bill and George Hillaby).

#### HEATHER BRAE STAGE

Heather Brae's "stage coach" is the name many people applied to the passenger service between Wetaskiwin and Heather Brae, that Mr. Cowan inaugurated with his mail route. The 'coach' was a democrat in the summer and a covered sleigh in the winter, but it was an established bus service that gave people a means of travelling between the two towns.

#### MOVE H.B. POST OFFICE

Following the closing of the Valentine General Store and the Heather Brae Post Office in 1906, a store was opened on the Charlie MacKay homestead farm S.E. 28-44-9-W4 in Albury district. The post office, retaining its Heather Brae name, was housed in the store. The farm is now owned by Jim Cowie. The farm home later burned down.

Charles Roy MacKay and Raleigh MacKay, brothers, homesteaded in the Heather Brae-Albury district in 1901, Charles MacKay filing on S.E. 28-44-19 and Raleigh on N.E. 22-44-19.

Members of the family recall that game birds were very plentiful at that time and that an old "musket loader" fire arm was pressed into service to supply the families with their meat and wild game.

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh MacKay and daughter went to the U.S. to reside following the sale of their farm to John Hicks in the mid-twenties. The farm is now owned by the Thomas Rawson family.

The Charles MacKay family went to Bawlf to reside after disposing of their farm to the Crow Bros., who later sold it to the Cowie family.

# 80 Men on Payroll

Around 1908 A. S. Rosenroll of Wetaskiwin and O. H. Anderson of the same town came to a point about three miles east of Ohaton where they established the Rosenroll coal mine. From the mine site a small town sprang up. The first persons connected with this venture were Norman Bradley, Lewie Speidel, Wm. Holiday, Harry Hunter, Charlie Grey, Charles Stevenard, M. E. Selund, A. A. Andreason, Gus Finkleman and George Cunningham, who was the pit boss. Also at the mine site were E. Leakvold, Tom Parsons, Ed Wilcox as engineer and George Carter.

The Store was operated by M. E. Selund, the pool room by Lewie Speidel and the Livery stable by Harry Hunter. Vernon Hardy owned the store, and there were also two large boarding houses, one of which was owned by Gust Flickman, and a school.

At one time the mine had as high as 80 men on the payroll, and it was stated that the coal was the highest quality coal this side of Edmonton.

Baseball and dances were the early means of entertainment, with the old schoolhouse rollicking with the sounds of dance music at the end of a day's hard work. A townsite was surveyed, with August Speidel purchasing the first lot. John Rusk and Mr. Connor

## ACCOMMODATION WAS GOOD



One of the huts in the fine town. From left to right are Leakvold, Hains, Lloyd Sheets, Charlie Grye, and another Hains.

were the first teachers.

Vernon Hardy who operated the General Store at Rosenroll moved the structure to Bawlf in 1918 and it was known as the Hardy's General Store. That business changed hands several times and is now used as a restaurant owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Capis.

Speidel's pool room, which also contained Ed Gallingers barber shop operated until 1918, when Mr. Speidel moved the pool hall to his farm south of Rosenroll, and used the building for a tool shop.

Gust Flickman built a boarding

house at Rosenroll in 1912, operating the business until 1918 when he sold out and moved to Donalda.

Bawf finally received another Rosenroll business when the M. E. Selund General Store, opened in 1912 was moved to Bawlf in 1918 and is now owned by Thompson's Variety Store. The building was purchased by O. H. Anderson and he moved it to Bawlf where he started up a grocery business. The building was a frame construction about 24 feet by 40 feet, and was lighted with coal oil.

## THE ROSENROLL COAL MINE



An excellent view of the mine tipple at the Rosenroll coal mine east of Ohaton. This was a vertical shaft mine, as can be seen from the picture. The Round Hill mine, taken over by the Camrose Syndicate in early years, was a sloping shaft mine.

# New Salem Ahead of R.R.

Goodwin and Hugh Taylor, each teaching a term in the log school. Children from the Hills, Hoyme, McKenzie, Hartman, Spoklie and Van Petten families attended the first classes. The building was sold and moved to the Van Petten farm, where it later burned down.

Rev. Thomas Phillips, Methodist Church Minister, who was leading a wanderer's life with preaching appointments in homes and at Skafse school, encouraged the building of a church. Under his direction, a grant of twenty acres of land was purchased by the Government and donated for the building site, the location being S.E. 14.

The construction of the building was under the supervision of Willis Allen, father of Mrs. Ellsworth Hills, additional labor being supplied by the settlers. Dedication services were held on February 25th, 1906, Rev. Finley officiating, and Scafse Church became one of the two churches east of Wetaskiwin, between that town and Saskatoon, a second church being built about the same time in the Spring Lake district.

Four of the early settlers who found a resting place in the little church-yard with funeral services held in the church, were Mrs. W. S. Carter, Mrs. Wm. Throssell Sr., Mrs. Lewis Harttributing a small amount of money towards wages for the teacher; and Eurastus Taylor taught the first classes in his homestead shack located five miles south of Camrose on N.E. 10-46-20, now owned by C. O. Peterson. Mr. Taylor, who was described as being the typical old-time school master, taught school until a district was formed and a log school built.

## BUILDING OF LOG SCHOOL

The J. K. Van Petten family moved into the district in 1900, and added their support to organizing the district known as Skafse, the site being south of the Hoyme homestead and presently owned by Mrs. Rachel Magee. The building on that first school site was made of logs, and Miss Elizabeth Shaw was the first teacher, followed by Miss Bomber, Mrs. Easton, Mr.

Ten years ahead of the railroad, settlers poured into a small area that had Dried Meat Lake its south boundary. They were a self-sufficient group of people who freighted lumber and material from Wetaskiwin when necessary, and soon had homes built and a start made towards the agricultural development of their farms.

School was important to these settlers, which included the Hills, Hartman, McKenzie, Spoklie and Hoyme families. The organization of a school district took time, as all correspondence for the formation of a district was carried on through Ottawa, head of the Government for the Territories. These families organized a temporary school, each con-

man and Delbert Van Petten. Their resting place was sheltered by a row of a dozen spruce trees, planted by J. K. Van Petten, which stood for years as a monument to his zeal.

The little log school outgrew its usefulness, and once again the homesteaders turned their attention to replacing it with a new frame building, which was constructed in 1905. Zilbert Hills, T. Hoyme, Lewis Hartman, John Spoklie, J. K. Van Petten and Murdock McKenzie all served on the early school boards.

## OPERATED SCAFSE STORE AND POST OFFICE

Joseph Kingsbury Van Petten, a land delegate for a Kansas Land Company, arrived in New Salem district from Kansas, U.S.A., in August, 1900.

J. K. Van Petten filed on S.E. 14. Mr. McKenzie assisted with cutting logs and constructing their first log house, which will be remembered by many persons over a wide area, as it later housed the Scafse store and post office when they were asked to take it over. The Scafse Church was also built on the south half of the same section, and the Van Petten's served on the hall board and were caretakers of the church, and planted the spruce trees that sheltered the graveyard—all that now remains to mark the spot where the church, now moved to Ohaton, stood.

Van Petten sons also filed on homesteads locally, Robert, N.W. 30; Bill, S.W. 30; and Edward, N.E. 2, all in township 46, range 20.

They recall the district being sparsely settled, and some of the neighbors they recall were the Hills', Ivan Reid's, T. Hoyme's, Lewis Hartman, Bill Throssell's, Spokkeli's and McWhirter's. Rob and Will Van Petten worked the first years in a sawmill, and during the winter of 1904-05 hauled lumber from Wetaskiwin to Camrose for construction work on the budding townsite of Sparling.

Will Van Petten later settled in the Albury district, and following his death the family have continued to operate the family farm, and have made purebred livestock the first interest of the farm.

## BROUGHT FIRST THRESHER INTO COUNTRY

Lewis L. Hartman immigrated from Des Moines, Iowa, in 1895, and homesteaded six miles south of Camrose on the farm now owned by the Woods family.

He took an active part in the development of the New Salem district, served on the New Salem school board, and Mrs. Hartman was an ardent supporter of the Methodist Church at Scafse (New Salem).

The first threshing machine, a horse-power, was brought into the district by Mr. Hartman, and when the steam threshers be-

came popular he bought an outfit and threshed over a wide area of the district.

In 1913, he sold his farm to D. W. Bridal and Herbert Smith and moved to Camrose, where he was agent for the International Harvester Co.

The Will Throssell family, who accompanied them to the district in 1905, were also early homesteaders who helped to develop the district, and improved a homestead. Their land is now owned by Holly Reid.

Lew Hartman was instrumental in his brother, Albert, and family, moving to the New Salem district in 1907, later moving to Heather Brae and Albury district, where the family has taken an active part in the community for over forty years.

## 60 YEARS IN THIS AREA

The marriage of William P. Mittlestadt and Anna McWhirter in January, 1902, united two of the very early pioneer families. Mr. Mittlestadt homesteaded on section 12-47-20, and Mrs. Mittlestadt's parents, the W. McWhirter's, on the farm now known as the Golberg farm.

Mrs. Mittlestadt now resides on the original homestead, 12-47-20, which is being farmed by their son, Walter. The original house, built in 1901, now stands in the farm yard.

Coming to this district from Canby, Minnesota, when a girl of 12, Mrs. Mittlestadt recalls the severe cold when driving out from Wetaskiwin to her father's (Wm. McWhirter) homestead on Christmas Eve, 1895.

## WHEAT HAULED TO EDMONTON

The first crop of wheat raised by Zilbert Hills in the New Salem district in 1896 was threshed by being tramped out by horses feet and cleaned by a home-made fanning mill. It was hauled to Edmonton, where it was ground into flour for the family's use.

Mr. Hills filed on N.E. 4-46-20 in 1894, having come from the United States. The land adjacent to the lake was the source of a very interesting collection of Indian relics, part of which were turned over to the Camrose Historical Society.

With the help of his sons, Albion, Irving, Ellsworth and Albert, other land was bought and a prosperous mixed farm developed. The railroad was built in 1905 and the development of the town of Camrose became a source of interest, which gained his wholehearted support, and he acquired a large holding of real estate in the new town.

Ellsworth Hills homesteaded 30-45-16, located 4 miles N.W. of the present town of Daysland, in 1903. He recalls having to drive livestock to Wetaskiwin each time he made a sale, and the distance of 60 miles took several days to make a round trip. He and his brother, Albert, later took over the home farm here and developed a fine herd of purebred Shorthorns. Albert passed away in 1935, and his father in March, 1940.

## FIRST STEAM THRESHER

The theft of a load of lumber shaped the destiny of the Charles John Sherman family when they came to this area from Reno, Minnesota, in 1903.

Mr. Sherman homesteaded on land near Heisler and hauled a load of lumber for a house. Making a second trip for lumber, he arrived at the homestead to find the first load had disappeared, and as a result cancelled his contract.

He returned to the New Salem district and purchased N.E. 15-46-20 from Mr. McLeod, which has remained the Sherman home for over half a century, and is farmed at present by Art, youngest member of the family of twelve children.

Mr. Sherman was a well-driller and drilled the first well on the townsite of Camrose, located on the tannery site near the St. Mary's Hospital. He also owned one of the first steam threshing machines in the district.

Mr. Sherman passed away in May, 1943, and Mrs. Sherman in more recent years.

## HELPED BUILD CHURCH

Tostein Hoyme family were also early homesteaders in New Salem district. Mr. Hoyme was active in developing a farm and assisted in organizing the New Salem school district and building of Skafse Church. Nephews, Ole, who came in 1900, and Gilbert, who came in 1901, first lived in his home, and were active in the development of this area. Gilbert later went into business in Camrose, where he started a construction business and laid the first foundation in the new town.

## EARLY AUCTIONEER

The Harry Teeple family came from Waukon, Iowa, and were among the early settlers. They bought eleven quarters of land in the New Salem district. They also served on the school board, the Skafse church board, and were early caretakers of the cemetery. Their house was one of the first large frame buildings in the district, and will be remembered as a stopping place and land mark by the many settlers who moved in to the south and east of Camrose area. He also was an early auctioneer here, and will no doubt be remembered by many persons in that capacity.

The Ivan Reid family and brother, Ben Reid, were also among the early settlers. Ben Reid farmed the farm on the banks of Dried Meat Lake, in the Albury district, later owned by the Albert Hartman family and presently farmed by Lyle Hartman.

Mrs. Ivan Reid was raised as a foster daughter of the W. Throssell family, who came from Iowa in 1895. She and her husband developed extensive farming interests which are now operated by their youngest son, Holley. An older son, Cecil, also farms in the New Salem district.

## Daresbury School Was Com. Centre

The Daresbury school district lies between the Heather Brae and New Salem districts, and their early homesteaders were closely intermingled with the other two districts. Among the early settlers were the James Price's, Jim and John Wilcox, the Carter's, Degere's, Robert Smith and Enoch Hay families, and the Larson family.

The first meetings to organize the school district were held in the homes in January 1903 and the first minute book reveals the fact that money for the construction of the building was borrowed from a Wetaskiwin bank. Jim and John Wilcox and Jim Price were members of the first school board.

Lumber for the building was hauled from Wetaskiwin and Geo. Kolb was the carpenter. The minute book also reveals that he was paid the sum of \$16.00 for an extensive part of the construction work. The foundation of the building was laid by Enoch Hay, whose homestead was opposite the present home of Karl Lutz.

First school classes were held in the district in 1903 and brought the pursuit of the three "R's" to many young people who had been in the district for three or four years with no school available. Herbert Parke was first teacher.

The school served as an education centre for practically half a century, was closed in 1952 when school children were conveyed to Sifton School in Camrose by bus. The building sold at auction was purchased by residents of the district who had organized a Community Club and now serves as the Community Centre, and is the headquarters for 4H meetings, homesteaded the the North-West 9-45-20. Both quarters of land are now owned by Bob Elgert.

The James Price family who came originally from London, England, many years previous, settled in Fort Edmonton in 1880 and later, 1894, homesteaded on the S.W. 19-45-20 on the banks of Dried Meat Lake, and a son, (Dick) homesteaded the N.W. -9-45-20, both quarters of land are now owned by Bob Elgert.

The family first immigrated to Old Fort Garry, now Winnipeg. They later went to Fort Battleford where James Price assisted in the building of the RNWMP post. A son, Thomas Price, now resident in Camrose, was the first white child born there. Mr. Price, Sr., participated in the uprising of the Riel Rebellion, the family remaining at Fort Edmonton for safety.

The father named the Belmont district in North Edmonton where they were early farmers and they supported the organizing and the building of the first community hospital in Edmonton.

A daughter, Mrs. Gully, lived for many years on the original homestead in the Daresbury district, a sister, Mrs. Degeere resided on the farm now owned by Melvin Magnuson, and later in Camrose and Dick Price also resided on the farm for a number of years. He was born in Edmonton in 1883 and

now resides at Menook, Alberta, and has 72 years of residence in Alberta to his credit. Another daughter of the family married Herbert Parker, the first teacher at Daresbury. She returned recently to spend a winter in the district and thus renewed old acquaintances.

Robert Samuel Smith immigrated from England in 1860 and in 1901 he and Mrs. Smith and daughters, May and Beth, came from Minnesota to the Daresbury district and homesteaded on the N.W. 6-46-19.

A daughter, Beth, married John Patrick Murray on December 5, 1910, and lived in the Heather Brae district for several years, her husband passing away as the result of an accident. In June 1944 she married John Elder and he passed away in October of 1953. She continues to reside on their Heather Brae farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith passed away at Lac La Biche, Mr. Smith in December of 1928 and Mrs. Smith in March of 1936.

The Wilcox brothers, John and Jim, came from Park Rapids, Minnesota, in 1901. John homesteaded on S.E. 36-45-20 W4, and Jim on N.W. 30-45-20, the two quarters corner one another with the roadway between.

Members of the John Wilcox family still resident in the district are Ed., Inez (Mrs. Geo. Carter), Harry, farming south of Camrose; Fred of Camrose, and the youngest son, Bob, who is farming the original home farm which is being operated on the father-son partnership basis with his son, Leo.

The original Jim Wilcox farm is being farmed by a son, Marshall Wilcox, with his mother and brother, Morrell, also resident there. Arthur farms across the road from the original home. Other members of the family live in Edmonton and Calgary.

The senior Carters were early homesteaders in the Daresbury district and their homestead was located on section 6-46-20 and is now being farmed by a son, Geo. and his son Gerald. A fine set of farm buildings have been built there and extensive mixed farming program developed, including poultry and beef cattle.

Five boys of the Carter family played in the original Dried Meat Lake Band which was associated with the Carl Wabel Hall on Dried Meat Hill. They are Dave, Roy, Frank, Bill and George.

Frank Carter who established a home in the district passed away some years ago. The farm is being farmed by his son, Kenneth. Dave Carter who resides in Camrose is a Chiropractor.

# CHAPTER THREE

WHEREIN IS SHOWN the pattern of development along the rivers and creeks north and east of Bittern Lake to Miquelon Lake, Beaver Lake and down to Quarrel Lake. Historic points in this chapter include the Hay Lakes Telegraph Line, built in 1876, and the summer resort development of the Miquelon Lakes.

## *Harvest Home-Crooked Lake*

West of the Bittern Lake, in the area bounded by Crooked Lake and the Big Hay Lakes to the north, lies the district of Harvest Home. Adjacent districts include Crooked Lake, Offerdale, Roseland and Big Hay Lakes.

The district received its name around 1916 when the people of that area joined together to form a school district. The first board, which included John Mikulicky, R. W. Cowan, Gustav Falk and J. S. Langum had the task of naming the school. The name Harvest Home was chosen from a long list of names forwarded by the Department of Education. The school was opened in the fall of 1917 with Miss Irene Luther the first teacher.

Although it was years before Geo. Gladhill got around to painting the name on the new school, the district became known as the Harvest Home district. The school was remodelled a few years later and remained in operation until February 25th, 1954, when the Gwynne Centralized School was completed.

Twenty-five years ago Harvest Home and the nearby districts of Crooked Lake, Offerdale, Roseland and Big Hay Lakes joined forces and built a Community Hall. Bert Edinga drew up the blueprints for an octagonal shaped building with two entrances. The site was surrounded with spruce and northern poplar.

Crooked Lake was the beginning of the water highway that opened up around the turn of the century, with settlers rafting lumber and supplies from Crooked Lake, down the Pipestone Creek into Dried Meat Lake and the Battle River. In 1895 Mr. Rodberg opened a store and little post office in the Pipestone Creek valley. The post office was known as Diana, later to become Gwynne. This store sat just west of the present village of Gwynne at the base of the hill. Other post offices serving that area were Odin post office, operated by C. J. Pearson, located on his farm on the northeast of 22-47-22, and the Lundemo post office

23, and the Grosslands.

During the year of 1898 Amund Hougestol took up a homestead adjoining the one of Ole Bakken near the townsite of Camrose. A few years later Mr. Hougestol and Bernt Taje rafted lumber from a sawmill located at the northwest end of Crooked Lake that was owned and operated by Andrew Lee.

Bernt Taje and family of three boys, Abner, Edwin and Kilmer came to the district after the turn of the century and took up a homestead on the northeast of 24-47-23.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Peterson and family homesteaded in the Crooked Lake district and Mr. Peterson was one of the men who helped to cut logs to build the first Crooked Lake school. The west half of 23-47-22 was the two homesteads of Charlie and Sam Padgett. Joseph David Cowan, whose son Joe was the first mail carrier from Wetaskiwin east homesteaded the southwest of 28-47-22 until he turned the farm over to his son William.

## **OPEN DIANA POST OFFICE**

Romeo William Cowan homesteaded on the southwest quarter of 34-47-22, having come to the Wetaskiwin district from Quebec in 1892. He later hauled wood by the cord to the village of Rosenroll and to the Haselwood grist mill. Peter August Falk homesteaded on the northeast quarter of section 10.

William Blakely travelled in 1896 by covered wagon with his family to Kananaski district where he stayed for a few years raising cattle. The family packed up belongings again and came to the Harvest Home district where he bought the homestead rights from Joseph Cowan. His brother George and Bud took up land in the Hay Lakes district. William finally came to the Hay Lakes district to farm, and resided there until his passing in 1934.



First teacher at Harvest Home School, Miss Irene Luther, who must have caused many a "Zekiel's" heart to go "pitty-pat".



Victor Larson and his young oxen that he broke himself at the age of 14 years when this picture was taken.

his death in 1941.

Francis Chambers worked on the Stoughton ranch in 1902 and later took over the formanship until 1907 when the ranch changed hands and became known as The Bittern Lake Ranch. The family purchased the homestead of Peder August Falk, farming here and serving four years as Councillor. Gustav Hedin came in 1902 to the northeast of 2-48-22.

When Per Erik Berglin came to this area in 1902 he squatted on the land of his choice until the northside of township 47 was surveyed. Three of his brothers took the remaining portion of the section of the section which was 48-23. These families picked up their mail at the Yule Meadow post office, operated by Trumsen.

Richard Chambers who came in 1904 worked on the Stoughton ranch that was under the formanship of his cousin, Francis. He also purchased the north half of 23 and fractions of 26-47-22.

Nels Linden arrived in the Crooked Lake district in 1905 and settled on the northeast quarter of 15-48-22.

#### OAT KING

Nels Linden not only was a good farmer, but he got the most out of the land that he had chosen. Around 1919 he became interested in the growing of quality seed and purchased a small quantity of Banner Oats from the University of Alberta to use as foundation stock. He also grew Victory Oats and after years of careful selection and growing he got results. Ten years after he started with his foundation stock he became Oat King of Canada, carrying off the championship at the Toronto Royal in 1929. Both Victory and Banner Oats brought him prizes as far away as the International Seed Fair in Chicago where he took third place with Victory Oats. He was made a director of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and President of the Alberta branch. In 1931 he was made a Robertson Associate and remained one of the very few men in Alberta so honored.

#### RAFTED PIPESTONE

The Diana Post Office of Rodbergs west of Gwynne served the Peder Wolden family who had homesteaded on the southwest of 36-46-23. Wolden had emigrated from Norway and settled here in 1896. Adolph Rupertus came in 1896 to the southwest of 30-46-22 near the Gwynne Flats. During the wet Spring of '02 when the Flats were flooded, he built a raft and operated it across the Pipestone Creek, the only crossing between this area and Vegreville.

Gustav Falk, Swedish emigrant of '98, came out on a free pass on the CPR from Winnipeg, working around for a couple of years before filing in 1901 on the northwest quarter of 16-47-22. He was an active member of the Harvest Home school board for 14 years.

Eric William Eckerman, also Swedish, came here in '99 and chose the northwest quarter of 34-47-23. He sold out in 1902 and moved on to Red Deer. The southwest quarter of this section was taken in '99 by Erick Larson who later served on the Crooked Lake school board, and resided in the district until his death in '39.

Carl John Pearson, who came out in 1900 and settled on the northeast of 16-47-22 opened the Odin post office on his farm. He was called on many times to officiate as an undertaker, and prepare bodies for burial.

Philip Eames who came out from England to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, finally ended up in the Harvest Home district in 1900 on the northwest of 30-47-22. Carl Schmidt came the same year to the northeast of 22. Odin post office served these families and later the village of Rosenroll.

On the southeast of section 4 in the same township, Andrew Wicklander settled in 1900, having emigrated from Sweden. On the northwest of 34 was Andrew Peter Anderson and his family.

#### LOST TEN CROPS

Gustav Herman Burkhardt arrived in 1901 on the northwest of 18-47-22 after experiencing hard



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wicklander and his mother at their early home in the Harvest Home district.

# Rosenroll Merges With Bittern Lake

In the history and growth of the towns, villages and hamlets in this area, numerous stories appear in this Jubilee issue telling of the lone stores or post offices that moved to railroad townsites to get a community started. However, the case of Bittern Lake versus Rosenroll stands out as the exception to this almost universal pattern. For a well-nourished feud existed for six years between the station stop and the previously established town, a scarce two miles away.

This feud was settled on July 1, 1910, when the two places formed an alliance, out of economic necessity, and Rosenroll moved to the station stop, and was enveloped in the arms of its rivals. Rosenrollians must have found it a bitter pill to swallow after ten prosperous year of existence, for at one time they had all the trump cards. While they held out for five years, waiting for the right suit to be played, the milage between settlements was imperceptibly but steadily shrinking. The crushing blow came when they realized that the railroads were playing a no-trump game and they had lost their tricks.

In 1904, when the CPR branch line was extended eastward from Wetaskiwin, a station was placed at the point where the steel curved around the south end of Bittern Lake, which took the name of the lake. An adjoining townsite was surveyed which, like every other prospective town, was expected to take root. But with its very birth Bittern Lake had a rival. Several years previous the town of Rosenroll had been set on foot, not more than two miles away. Its businesses and services were already established with much of its capital and income derived from the 4,000 acre ranch of A. S. Rosenroll. The hopes of the district came to rest in this town as the ranch grew in importance and a store and post office were added.

To compensate the town for not having a railway, representations were made to the citizens that a branch line of the CNR would some day run through Rosenroll.

With the increase in trade and prosperity Rosenroll did not improve its chances for getting the railway branch. Farmers of the district found it convenient to market their produce at Bittern Lake railway station and might as well have done their trading in the same trip.

The Rosenroll creamery, operated under government supervision, did a healthy business. A new church was built, and a public school. A post office, telephone exchange and many business firms opened up. Rosenroll became a large distributing center for mail. No less than eight post offices received mail from this point. Rural delivery was set up. Louis Selthon carried the mail south and east, C. Roper took the northern route.

Business firms included the meat and provision market of Diesting & Sons, who also ran the livery and feed barn; Olstad and Murray, implement agents; Tortelson & Gilbertson, implements; Rosenroll ho-

tel; Holmson & Wanous, blacksmith; Brackman elevator building; Haselwood & Sons, flour and chopping mill, and Ladell & Butcher, general store. The hotel built at Bittern Lake moved to Rosenroll.

In 1909, the town learned that they had been entirely overlooked by the railway company, and their last hope waned. The failure to secure the railway again brought Bittern Lake into favor, and businesses and residences began to creep away from Rosenroll.

Amalgamation of the two towns took place officially on July 1st, 1910, when the post office took the name of Bittern Lake and moved to the smaller town. The general store of Olstad & Murray was the first to go, jacked up on bobsleighs and pulled by 20 teams of horses. Residences were shifted in the same way, with the hotel the last to move. The hotel was moved in sections, taking about 3 weeks in all. This establishment had held a liquor license for seven years, the only factor that made it worthwhile moving.

The Olstad & Murray general store had been sold to Ladell & Butcher before it was moved, and in 1912, Kuschner became a temporary owner, disposing of it to Ladell & Roper.

## WIDOW HOME-STEADED IN 1890

From 1890 until 1900 a handful of settlers braved their way eastward from Wetaskiwin to settle on the first homestead lands in the Bittern Lake area. These persons included James Heighington, Chas. Howarth, Emil Bosmans, Albert Womacks, Mrs. Hother, A. W. Haselwood, William T. Roper, and Ernest Roper.

James Heighington was a Yorkshireman who left his native land for the fishing banks of Prince Edward Island in '95, moving to Toronto the following September. Here he picked up his first experience with the laundry business, which took him to Florida and back again. Once more in Toronto, he drove the city's horse-drawn street cars before the urge to go west took hold.

### FIRST WHITE SETTLER

In 1892, he came to Alberta and settled on a homestead a mile and a half from the present townsite on the northwest quarter of 32-46-21, which was on the south shore of Bittern Lake. Half breeds told him that he was the first settler and that no white men lived in all the country between his claim and the settlement at Battleford some hundreds of miles to the east.

## INTERPRETER



When Ernest Roper travelled fur buying in 1898 he always had his constant companion and interpreter, Gabriel Leveille (standing) with him.

Florida called him several times in the ensuing years, but he always returned to Alberta where climate agreed with him better. In 1900, he and another close settler, Charles Howarth, who had come into the country two years later, joined forces and went to Sedgewick, where they set up a cattle ranch.

### BUILT LAUNDRIES

In 1906, he was back in this area again and built a steam laundry at Wetaskiwin. In 1912, he came to Camrose and assisted Van Trak Traakranen to build a laundry on the north of the town, a building which later became a tannery.

The next year he put up a new building on second street west and moved the laundry machinery. He purchased the business from then owner Thompson in 1919 and operated it until 1927. In 1938, after a few years at Cranbrook, B.C., he returned to his original Bittern Lake homestead. When the Camrose training center opened, he helped his son, James, set up a laundry on his farm near Ohaton. The family retired to Edmonton in 1943 and he passed away two years later.

Charles Howarth settled on the southeast quarter of the section that Heighington chose, where he farmed until the ranching enterprise he went into with his friend. Before he came to the homestead he had sold horses to the army during the Boer War, and also pack horses for the Dawson trek of '98.

### NO WATER

In 1893, Emil Bosmans arrived and took up a quarter on the southwest of 10-47-21, where he stayed for seven years before giving up hope of having sufficient water for his stock. He sold his property to W. J. Hoover and left for Round Hill, where he associated himself in the growth of that town.

Albert Womacks brought his family and his mother from Nebraska, driving overland by covered wagon a distance of 1,300 miles in eleven weeks to his father's homestead one mile south of Bittern Lake. His father had filed the previous year. He stayed here until 1904 when he moved to a farm just west of Camrose until the time of his retirement in 1949. He was married to Edith Young in 1898, the daughter of the pioneer Methodist missionary Rev. Harrison Young and a granddaughter of the famed Rev. John McDougall.

The first woman homesteader recorded at the time in this country was Mrs. Margaret Clarke Hother, an English widow who came to this country in 1890 for her health. A family doctor had given her hope to live for only six months. She arrived in Edmonton to visit a friend and was attracted to this country. She purchased a farm at Peace Hill, Hobbema, and when the land around Bittern Lake was opened for homestead filing she took up a quarter on the south east end of the lake and bought a fraction of the Jack Hayes farm, naming it the "Lone Spruce" farm. The Hayes family, including Jack, his mother and family, erected a large two-storey log house where Mrs. Hother lived until a new home could be built. Part of it was used for a classroom, where a friend of Mrs. Hother's was in charge of a private school. Among the pupils attending this school were two sons of Francois Adam.

Mrs. Hother's father was one of England's landed gentry. Seeing the gardeners work on her father's land she had learned to love the soil and her flower and vegetable gardens were outstanding. As she rode to the hounds in England she was remembered by many riding side-saddle on her spirited horse. She learned to raise cattle, hogs and poultry, which she tended herself until her foster son was old enough to help.

This extraordinary lady was able to assist many of the early settlers with their financial problems as Wetaskiwin was the nearest bank to do business with. She passed away in 1940 at the age of 86 years.

## Build Grist Mill in '00

A. W. Haselwood and his family embarked on the S.S. Parisian, the largest liner on the Allen Line, from a seaport in England and sailed for Canada, arriving in Wetaskiwin in 1897. His wife and family spent several months in a vacant house on the outskirts of town until the farmhouse was completed. His two sons, Ernest and Alfred, still reside on the home-place.

A grist mill was built by the Haselwoods at the beginning of 1900, and in 1906 a flour mill was erected which was destroyed by fire in 1933. A new mill was built, but was used more for a seed cleaning plant and grist mill.

The entire family took an active part in community life. Mrs. Haselwood always walked with her daughters to the Methodist church services and was the organist and singing leader at the various homes. Walter Treleaven was in charge of the services in those days.

An incident that always amused the Haselwood family on arriving in Wetaskiwin, was the manner in which the CPR agent went about milking his cow. As he had no barn that spring, he would place the cow across the tracks, tying her front feet to one steel rail and the hind legs to the opposite rail. As there was only one train each day he had no worries about being suddenly surprised.

Other English settlers were Ernest Roper and his family who had first ranched in Texas before venturing further north in 1898. He settled on the east side of Bittern Lake and for many years conducted a store and post office.

He had been a Boer War veteran and while in South Africa had hunted many of the native animals. His ranch house in Texas was decorated with trophies of those hunting days. His wife had been a music teacher, and when they moved to this country her piano came with them.

Mr. Roper and generally his interpreter, Gabriel Leveille, a half-breed, travelled a good deal in the winter months of 1898 to 1900 buy-

ing furs. He went as far south as Buffalo Lake and a considerable distance north and east of Bittern Lake.

The Indians thought a great deal of Ernest Roper through his honest dealings with them. He never used liquor to entice them into selling furs, and on one occasion he sold 100,000 muskrat skins to a fur house. One year, at a New Year's dance, a half-breed passed around a hat and presented Mr. Roper with the proceeds to show their respect and appreciation.

Roper's store was situated at his ranch house, which was on the east side of Bittern Lake. Three years before he had come to the country a man named Rodberg had opened up a store in the Pipestone Creek valley. Francois Adam also had his store at the top of the hill on the south side of the Battle River, close to Jean Baptiste La boucan's home.

In 1892, Wetaskiwin came into being, and made growth that summer when the railway was completed into Strathcona. There was a well marked trail around the south end of Bittern Lake, which passed on to the north-east beyond Pretty Hill. Some work was done in 1901 and the government road running east from Bittern Lake to the present town of Camrose.

Roper's only son, William Trevor Roper who homesteaded on the southeast of 28-48-22 recalls the cold winter of 1906 when the ice didn't go out of Bittern Lake until the last day of May. William served in the first World War along with his father (who was killed in 1915).

Alfred Barnard and his wife, and sister-in-law, Miss Manley, arrived in the area in the '90's to ranch. They built a large ranch house on the present site of Bittern Lake and later moved to Rosenroll. Here it was renovated into a hotel and store. They had a private tutor for their children and hired considerable help to graze large herds of cattle as far north as Hay Lakes.

After Rosenroll folded up Mr. Barnard entered into the law practice at Wetaskiwin.

## MAIN STREET OF BITTERN LAKE



The little whistle stop finally won out over the ready-made town of Rosenroll on July 1, 1910, when the official moving of the Post Office to Bittern Lake ended five years of rivalry.

# C. & E. Railroad

When the C. & E. Railroad was completed from Calgary to Strathcona, more settlers came up from the south, including Christ Weisser, Adam Hoover, Henry Jasman, Matthew Mueller, Alois Fetzner and Sander Peter Sanders. These settlers arrived in Bittern Lake in 1901 and took up homesteads for the most part. Weisser was on the southwest of 12-47-21. Adam Clark Hoover made his home with his aged mother in a pioneer log house built on C.P.R. land. After proving up on his homestead he sold it to his brother-in-law, Thomas G. Owen. "Grandma" Hoover was known as one of the outstanding pioneer women, carrying on with her missionary work and visiting the sick. Many of the early Methodist services were held in her home.

Henry Jasman settled on the southeast of section 24 with Mueller on the southeast of section 23. Matthew worked as a shoemaker in the early days along with his farming.

Sander Peter Sanders homesteaded on the northeast of 23-46-21, bringing G. P. Soland with him.

A. S. Rosenroll, then government immigration agent, for information sent material by request to Alois Fetzner in Michigan, U.S.A., and in 1901 he came to Canada, on a ten dollar harvester's ticket. When his harvester's time was up he returned home with samples of grain, hay and berries to show his family. Before he left he filed on a homestead for himself and his son, Charles.

When the family arrived in Wetaskiwin they stayed at the Alberta Hotel, where they were made welcome by the Matejkas. At the government immigration house they met many families who were to become their neighbors, the Christ Weisser family, C. B. Weisser family, Fred Schmidtke, August Links, Henry Jasmans, etc.

When the first school teacher, James Orr, returned to his boarding house, the A. Fetzner home, he said nothing was left but the "kids."

The sloughs and lake shore were strewn with dead waterfowl and the hailstorm had broken almost every windowpane in the district.

Some farmers hauled freight to the Roper store for \$2.50 a ton, and were able to carry 2 ton loads. The C.P.R. brought a ray of hope to the settlers of the district for they were able to get a road in 1903 to the townsite of Sparling.

Dr. Baldwin of Duhamel was the nearest doctor, followed later at Rosenroll by Dr. P. F. Smith and Dr. G. G. Stewart. Both of the latter doctors moved to Camrose when the town got started.

Christian Weisser settled on the northwest of 12-47-21. In August of 1901 a number of families met at his home for the purpose of organizing themselves as a church. For the occasion Rev. Gustav Schunke, then serving the Fredericksheim Baptist Church at Leduc, assumed the chair. Prayers and business sessions were conducted at

stead.

He owned two sections of land and his homestead. Nathan Monson took over the original homestead when they moved to their second farm west of Camrose where Joe Monson and sons now reside. Among their prize possessions brought out with their settlers effects was a new three-seated surrey with a "fringe on top".

August Link and family homesteaded on the southeast of Section 2-47-21 and sons, Richard, Robert and Rudolph each proved up on a homestead in the district. August later moved to Camrose where he became a grain buyer.

Arthur Sanders was but 13 years of age when he came with his parents, S. P. Sanders to this country. It wasn't long before he too drove cattle for Francois Adam. He went into the lumber business at Bawlf where he was manager of the Progress Lumber Company. He was one of the ball players for the Bittern Lake team in the early days and enjoyed all kinds of sports.

Harvey C. McNary, arrived from South Dakota in the spring of 1900, on the S.W. of 28-46-21, bringing his wife and five small children. He borrowed the \$10 filing fee from A. S. Rosenroll. His wife's parents, the Wm. Douglas family, came out two years later. The McNary home, a well known stopping place called the Dakota House, was operated for three years.

## Schoolin' '01

The Bittern Lake School district, later known as E.B.L., was organized in 1901 with the school built that fall. Anton Haspel and son Charles built the school and desks. The school section most central for all families was low-lying land situated on the CPR quarter north of his homestead. The first board consisted of W. Treleaven, Christ Weisser and Alois Fetzner. James Orr was the first teacher, at a salary of \$600.00 a year. He boarded at the Fetzner home for \$12 per month.

### ROSENROLL TEACHER

Miss Florence Purdy and her mother came next in 1903 and made their home in a one-room log cabin on the Bosman farm. Miss Purdy took over the Rosenroll School. First students were Margaret and Trevor Roper, Richard, Alice and Cecil Treleaven, Katherine, Elise, Mary and Ernest Fetzner, George and Henry Weisser and Rome and Bennie Link. During the winter months some of the older boys and girls, ranging up to 16 years, attended classes.

After the organization meeting in 1901 the Bethany Baptist Church services were held for six years in the schoolhouse. In the fall of 1906 the church was built and dedicated the following year. Charter members of the church included the Deitz, Jasman, Jungbert, Link, Weisser and Schmitke families. Christ Weisser was the first Sunday School superintendent, in 1901.

# Armena Settlers Past 80

Sixty-one years ago, on May 17th, 1894, the earliest permanent settlers arrived in what is now known as the Armena district, situated seven miles north of Camrose and about five miles west. Thore S. Grue and family and Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Grue (parents of Thore), who were well past their 80th year, arrived in this area from Minnesota, closely followed by Ole Movald later that same year.

Prior to 1894, a few homesteaders and squatters had appeared, but real development of that farming area of the country began with the appearance of the Grue and Movald families.

The Grue's settled on the farm now known as the Carl Lyseng farm, and Ole Movald settled further west and north on the pres-

## EARLY FAMILIES

The early families had several reasons for choosing this area to settle . . . a plentitude of land for large families served as the most solid reason. While the younger Grue's settled on the Lyseng farm, the parents chose land just across the quarter line.

Arriving by way of Wetaskiwin in a colonist car, the families drove to what is now known as Armena, and with them they brought four cows, two horses, a wagon, walking plow, flour mill, saw mill, planer mill and a 12 - horse - power portable steam engine. Also among their farm implements was a threshing machine separator. They secured another steamer in 1908. Like all settlers' homes, their first was constructed of logs — they being the fortunate possessors of a saw mill. Later in the summer, Mr. Grue built a make-shift house of poles and dry leaves to serve as sleeping quarters for the younger boys during the summer. Fortunately for the boys, the summer was very dry.

Being that Wetaskiwin was the nearest point for many years, a trip to town meant days of travel by ox-drawn wagons, on horseback, or on foot over the rough prairie trails. In 1898, a post office and store was started on the east shore of Bittern Lake. A little later a post office was set up at Pretty Hill, a district to the north of which Armena was a part.

During the spring and early fall of 1895, settlers were encouraged by the heavy growth of vegetation, but lack of rain in the latter part of the season dried up creeks and sloughs and created ideal conditions for prairie fires. Settlers were constantly on the alert, plowing fire guards around their buildings.

Summer and fall of 1896 was also very dry, with fires starting in mid September. Since many of the settlers were away working, the few left at home were kept busy fighting fires day and night. The fall of 1896 being dry, produced very little wheat for flour. Winter came early that year, and towards the end of

October here was a very heavy fall of snow; trails were obliterated and work came to a standstill. Two men from Bardo settlement had to get out to secure some flour to last the winter. They attempted to reach Edmonton by horse and sleigh. Taking the trail through Hay Lakes because of the blocked northern road, the travellers soon bogged down with their horses and were forced to turn back to the Thore Grue farm, which at that time was in the Scandia district.

Mr. Grue rallied to the desperate need of the hungry families and rigged up his old steam engine and ground up his own wheat into flour, with the use of his own small flour mill. Since the engine was out in the field four miles away, the men had to use a snow plow to get it home. This process took several days' hard work—while Mrs. Grue fed the travellers out of her meagre larder, feeling badly that her supplies were so inadequate.

Severe economy was practiced in those early days, especially with respect to food. A dollar's worth of sugar, about 12 pounds, had to last a family for the winter. As a rule the stores carried only the green coffee beans, which had to be roasted and ground before using. Roasted barley was also used for coffee.

In 1895, several Norwegian settlers arrived, including John Moe, Ed. Thompson, A. Boe and S. Bronken. Mr. Moe took up his homestead on the north-east section of 48-21, later taken over by his son, Arnt (recently sold to Art. Olafson). This farm in the early days was a wayfarer's stopping-off place for those travelling between Wetaskiwin and Bardo, and also from the north. Many a time, the Moe's had weary travellers sleeping all over the house, on every available inch of floor space.

Mr. Bronken homesteaded the farm now owned by Dave Willesko. The original house, made of logs, is still standing, but has been sided with lumber and painted. J. Boe's homestead is the present farm of Adolph Moe.

Ed. Thompson had first taken a homestead at Crooked Lake in 1893, and was well known as a land guide for the early settlers, making many a homestead deal throughout the country. He finally settled with his family on a parcel of land first homesteaded by Pete Tyberg. Later, his son, Oscar, lived on the place for a number of years (straight west of the present hamlet of Armena).



William Gabel taught at Thordenskjold in 1898.

## More Settlers Came in 1902

Around 1902 another influx of settlers came into the country, including the Saetres, A. Larsons. Tom Robolt, T. Hanell, John Broen, M. Steen, C. Berg, O. Areson, T. E. Nelson, S. Kringens, John Nelson, Elling, John and Ole Olson, O. Skaret, C. Broen, and many others there is no record of at the present time.

One strange incident concerns John Moe, who had rented some land in 1901 from Ole Bakken. Fate so designed that John Moe's son, Arnt, now lives on that very spot in the city of Camrose, and owns a lovely home there. Mr. Moe and Ole Bakken were the best of friends.

When G. O. Hendrickson and his family had settled here, they found the first few years tough going. Two friends, John Moe and Ole Bakken, happened to call on the Hendrickson's one afternoon, only to find him in a discouraged mood. He asked Mr. Moe if he had any money, only to receive a negative reply. Ole didn't have any money either. Mr. Hendrickson told Ole that he would give him everything but his "kids" if he could only give him enough money to go back to the States. As neither of the two friends could assist in a financial way, Hendrickson never did get back to the States, and in a little while seemed quite contented once he got over the first hump.

The August Thunberg's arrived here on or about 1905 and settled on the farm south of Armena on the highway . . . the old log house is still a landmark in that district. Mr. Tom Mickelchy came about the same time, and homesteaded right across from the A. Thunberg's.

## THORDENSKJOLD SCHOOL



After log building was shingled in 1909.

### 1st School

In 1897, Thore Grue and Ole Movald, with their large families, and the other settlers, saw that a school was an immediate necessity. So, with the help of John Moe, Ed. Thompson, S. Bronken and J. Boe, they set out planning a school. Logs were hauled from White Water Lake and sawed into rough lumber on Thore Grue's saw mill. This material formed the first building, as well as the furniture—all of which was made by Mr. Grue. Many pieces may still be seen around the district. In 1897, classes were held in the new schoolhouse. This was the first school in the Strathcona Territory. The first teacher was William Gambol, who received a salary of \$45.00 each month for the first year. No register could be found for this year, but in 1899 we do know that the school was open from January to July—a total of 126 days.

The first school board serving at the Thordenskjold School, as it was named, elected in 1898, included Thore Grue as chairman and secretary, Ole Movald as treasurer and Theo. Hansel as trustee. Mr. Hansel homesteaded the parcel of land later taken over by Hans Mortenson. Mr. Mortenson came from the States in 1900. This place was for many years a great gathering place for bachelors. If one could not find any place to go, Hans always had the welcome mat out and would make his guests feel at home. Hans used to entertain the Ladies' Aid in fine style during the first years, and also held the first turkey shoots in this area.

Christmas, 1900, saw the first Christmas program to be held in the area. The first year of school had twenty-nine pupils, from seven to seventeen years of age. The weighty name of Thordenskjold was derived from a great Norwegian sailor.

The Lyseng School was built in 1905, and the first members of the school board were Albert Lyseng, Elling Olson and O. T.

Wilson.

In 1912 the Busk's School was built and named by a pioneer, Mr. Busk, who came here in 1902 and homesteaded the Herman Hanson farm, later buying a farm west of Armena. J. B. Erickson was one of the first members of the school board; later, W. J. Moore served for many, many years.

A centralized school was built in Armena in 1941, doing away with all these smaller schools. The Armena School carried the number of the Busk School—2120. The first Busk School ended up as a barn on the Martin Hendrickson farm. The school at Armena now serves the old Thordenskjold, Busk, Throndson and Lyseng districts.

### The Lyseng Families

In 1901 the three Lyseng brothers, Albert K., Erick K., and Knut K., from Clinton, Big Stone County, Minnesota, decided to make a tour of Western Canada in search of good agricultural lands which might be purchased cheaply. After surveying the rich soil of that portion lying some fifty miles northeast of Wetaskiwin, they decided that the quest was ended and returned to Big Stone for their families. They were real homesteaders of sturdy Norwegian origin, a type this country was fortunate to possess in considerable numbers, and they had commenced homesteading in the Great Northwest.

They returned with their families in 1902 and secured among them around 4,000 acres of land, practically in a solid block.

A little earlier, G. O. Hendrickson and H. B. Lomnes and his son, Bert, led the way, with Henry Hendrickson following up a year later. Also with the Hendricksons were the Knut E. Lyseng's, parents of the Lyseng brothers, and the two Mrs. Hendrickson's. The Hendrickson's came from South Dakota and the Lomnes's from North Dakota.

In 1900, Mrs. S. T. Grue, the old grandmother, passed away and three years later the grandfather passed away. They were the parents of Thore S. Grue, who had come to this country when they had passed their eightieth year. In 1903, Thore bought another farm further east, which he had until his son, Nels, took it over. He built quite a large house which is still standing today.

In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Grue still had a lot of pioneer spirit left and they decided to buy a farm at Whitecourt, Alberta, which was then out in the unsettled country. Mr. Grue built another shack and lived there for five years. On February 16th, 1931, the hardy couple celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, at the Scandia Church. In 1932, the couple decided to retire, selling out everything they had to go to Edmonton. On their arrival in Edmonton, Mr. Grue dropped dead in the C.N.R. station, without ever enjoying the privilege of living in retirement in the city.

### Establishing The First Church

Although all the settlers were active in community life, they were particularly instrumental in the development of the church. The first Lutheran service was held at the home of Thore Grue on March 3rd, 1895, by the Rev. Bersvend Anderson of Bardo. Services continued in different homes for about three years. The first baptismal service and wedding took place on April 18th, 1896, at the E. Broen home. First confirmation service recorded was held at Ole Movald's home on November 8th, 1896. Confirmed were Tommy Movald and Elise Christensen (Mrs. Ole Sware). The first communion service recorded was on January 3rd, 1897, at the Thore Grue home.

Later, services were held at the Thordenskjold School. On May 14th, 1898, the congregation was named Scandia by Thore Grue, which was accepted then, and three and a half years later made permanent when the congregation was re-organized.

The organizational meeting was held at the school on October 26, 1901, with the following members present: Thore Grue, John Moe, Ole Movald, H. Lomnes, Jacob Lunde, John Broen, G. O. Hendrickson, C. Kelstad and Martin Steen. These persons, with their families, were charter members of the Scandia Church. G. O. Hendrickson was elected President, and Martin Steen, Secretary. A committee was chosen to draw up a constitution for the congregation.

In April of 1903, a church site was chosen on Section 2-48-21, beside the old cemetery. The church and cemetery were situated on the land which later became a part of the Hans Mortenson farm. This cemetery is one of the oldest for many miles and burials there are recorded before 1886 when it was a community interment spot.

# CPR at Armena in '11

T WAS IN 1911 that the C.N.R. from Edmonton to Calgary gave Armena its beginning. Up to that time this district had been called Thordenskjold, but being difficult to pronounce and to spell, a few men decided that they would write up to the Department in Edmonton and have them choose a name for the little town that was about to sprout. It wasn't long before they received word that this place should, or could, be named Armena . . . and Armena it was from that time on.

The railway went up through the quarter section lying directly south of the quarter section which Thore Grue had settled on (the present Carl Lyseng farm), which originally had been the homestead of Lars Tuttle, and the present townsite of Armena now stands on part of this land.

Armena was well established as a central point for large picnic gatherings of all kinds. School, church and community picnics were held during the summers. The hamlet now possesses a few more buildings, including a beautiful centralized school, modern in every detail. The oil industry has increased the wealth and buildings in the area, with many new farm buildings built.

In 1901, the August Anderson family and J. B. Erickson arrived in the district from South Dakota, with Mrs. Erickson and family arriving later. The Anderson's had seven children, Mrs. Erickson being

While the church was there, the cemetery was cared for by the Scandia congregation, but since then has been abandoned. On June 21st, 1904, the church building was started, and was completed in 1905. In 1908, it was moved to its present site and in 1909 was lengthened and a steeple added. K. K. Lyseng donated the land for the present church and cemetery.

The Scandia Ladies' Aid was organized in the year 1900, with the help of their Pastor, Rev. Anderson. The first meeting was held at Mrs. Jacob Lunde's home (on the present Anders Lyseng farm). Mrs. C. Kolstad was the first President, with Mrs. J. Lunde as secretary. The seven charter members were Mrs. J. Lunde, Mrs. C. Kolstad, Mrs. Ole Movald, Mrs. John Moe, and Mrs. John Broen. Mrs. Broen is the only surviving member. The ladies were constant attenders at the meetings, even to riding in hay racks when the roads were impassable.

Music was provided by a choir, formed in 1904 and led by Thore Grue. The first Sunday School was also held at the Grue home, in 1894. Other organizations of the church were the Luther League, Sunshine Club, the Dorcas Society, and in later years the L.D.R. The Armena Brotherhood was also organized in later years, and at the same time a successful Boy Scouts movement started, which has remained active to the present day.

the eldest daughter. Her father homesteaded the southeast section of 30-47-20, and in 1911 sold out to the Ostrem's, who came up from Nebraska with a great deal of equipment and stock. They built a large house and barn and farmed on a much larger scale.

Mr. Anderson then purchased the farm from S. Bronken, which he had homesteaded and lived on for many years, then retiring to Camrose.

Mr. Anderson worked in the hardware store of Hiram Burgar for a short time. Later on, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson moved back to Armena with their daughter, Mrs. J. B. Erickson, and lived there until they died. Mr. Anderson was a harness-maker and shoemaker in Sweden, a trade that stood him in good stead during his pioneer days. Always active church supporters, the Anderson's celebrated their 50th, 60th and 65th wedding anniversaries in the new country they had helped to pioneer.

## First Armena Elevator

In 1914 the United Grain Growers built Armena's first elevator, with Ed. Hendrickson and the late Al. Fowler helping to build this elevator. Bert Lomnes hauled in the first load of grain to the new elevator, at which time J. B. Erickson was the buyer and the first agent as well. Mr. Erickson was the agent for about three years. During these years, Victor Anderson, brother-in-law of Erickson's, relieved him for about six months; then Ed. Hendrickson bought grain for about two years. The elevator was then closed for a year, due to the big frost of '18, when no grain was sold. Bennie Olstad then took over for a few years, followed by George Hendrickson. Eddie Strand was the next in line, then came Dick Thompson. Harry Tweit, M. H. Sproule, the longest term agent, who stayed for nine years. Ted Barath bought for one month before Fred Birtles took over. Ivan Peterson took over from Birtle and finally, Arvid Erickson, the present buyer.

In 1935 the U.G.G. caught fire, and with the help of the Camrose fire brigade the fire was checked. The office and engine were completely destroyed and a considerable amount of damage was done to the elevator. It wasn't long before the old elevator was dismantled and a modern one built.

In 1927 and 1928 the Searle and Alberta Wheat Pool built grain elevators in Armena. Mr. Lynn was the first buyer for the Searle, with Alex Hamilton buying grain for Searle for the next 14 years. Mr. Athol Foster was buyer for the Pool. Frank Olson, present agent, has bought grain for the past 15 years.

In 1915 a store was built by Mr. Carter, a little southeast of the present site, and a little later a postal service was given to the store. Since Armena is located on the main line of the C.N.R., mail and passenger service were both excellent. Few rural points could boast of better service.

Mr. Carter sold the store, called the Armena General Store, to Ted Walkameyer, who sold out a couple of years later to Alfred Anderson. Mr. Anderson operated the store for another few years, selling out to Mr. Gurley. In 1922 the store burned down, then in 1923 John Walker built a new store on the present site and he has successfully conducted a grocery store, post office and oil business for 23 years. In 1946 Mr. Walker sold out his business to Gordon Rud and moved out to Vancouver. Vernon Lyseng was the next buyer, selling to the Grue Brothers. Raynold Thronson took over and is still the present owner.

1907 or 8



Four breaking plows, pulled by a steamer. On the water barrel is Oscar Grue, while his brothers, Simon and Lars, stand on the tractor. E. W. Olafson is standing, front.

# Telegraph on Trees

(Compiled and written by J. U. Erickson)

It is not generally known, even to local citizens, that near the present village of Hay Lakes once stood a telegraph office that was built over three-quarters of a century ago, long before any railroads had been built from the East into Western Canada, and long before this area had been surveyed and taken up by settlers. Roving bands of restless Indians were ever on the move in search of the rapidly diminishing herds of buffalo, and Louis Riel, who led the rebellion of 1885, was but a young man of 32 years at the time that the first telegraph message travelled over the line into the station known then as Hay Lake.

## BUILT IN 1876

Today this place, which was once a vital part of the only line of communication from the East into western Canada, is all but a forgotten memory.

The first telegraph line built from the East to the vicinity of Edmonton, was built in 1876 along the proposed right-of-way of the C.P.R. to a point near the present town of Leduc. At that time it was the intention to construct the main line of the C.P.R. through this part of the country, and as a preliminary to this construction the C.P.R. built the telegraph line. However, shortly after that it was decided to build the main line of the C.P.R. through Regina and Calgary instead, and it was then that the Dominion Government took over this telegraph line.

Selkirk, Manitoba, was the starting point of this line, and from there it went in a northwesterly direction, crossing the narrows of Lake Manitoba and on between Lake Dauphin and Lake Winnipegosis to a place called Livingstone on the present Manitoba - Saskatchewan border. There was evidently a trading post on the Swan River at that time. From Liginstone, the line continued, west by north, past the present town of Humbolt, Sask., to Battleford, and from there to a point about 15 miles south of Vermilion, called Eleanor. Here, a station was also built. From Eleanor, the line continued westward, between the present hamlet of Round Hill and Lake Demay, a few miles south of what is now Kingman, and then to Hay Lakes. From Hay Lake the line was built still farther west to a point near the present town of Leduc, crossing the area between Big Hay Lake and Whitewater Lake. This was the end of the line until 1879, when it was then continued on north to Edmonton.

The Hay Lake telegraph office was built on a small grassy knoll, situated on a height of land above the south of Little Hay Lake, now known as the northwest quarter of 32-48-21. (This land was homesteaded by Simon Grue in April of 1902). The old Battleford Trail passed within

100 feet of the west side of the building which was built of logs with the usual sod roof, and in size was approximately 16 feet by 20 feet with a lean-to on one side.

Jim McKernan was the operator, and with his wife and family lived in the telegraph office until it was closed down and then moved to Edmonton. It is understood that the McKernan's lived at Hay Lake for a period of approximately seventeen years. It is also interesting to note that the very first issue of The Bulletin, the first newspaper to be published in Edmonton, Northwest Territories, contains this reference to Hay Lake:

"As the line has been down since Saturday between Hay Lake and here, we are without telegrams for this issue. A man will leave tomorrow to repair it, and by next week we hope to be able to give the latest news from the East up to date".

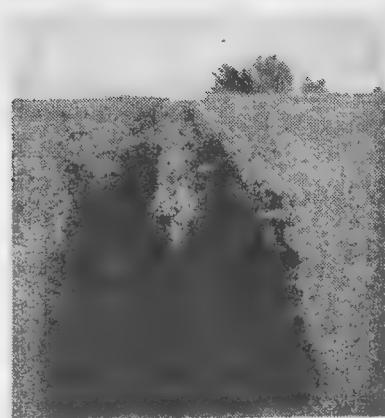
This issue was Volume 1, Number 1, of the Edmonton Bulletin, printed on December 6th, 1880.

## RANCHED CATTLE

The wages paid to a telegraph operator at that time was probably rather meagre, so Jim McKernan decided to make use of the abundance of hay and pasture that was to be found everywhere, and set himself up in ranching on a small scale in order to augment his income. To prevent his cattle from straying away, it was necessary for him to build some fences and enclose an area of land which could be used for a pasture. This he did, and he built one fence from the south side of the Little Hay Lake to what is now known as Bakken's Slough, and then another fence from there to the north side of Little Hay Lake. This effectively enclosed a good sized area which he used for grazing his stock. He evidently was quite successful in this venture.

When the McKernan's moved to Edmonton, he became a well known figure there in city circles, and the present McKernan Lake district in Edmonton is named after him. It is understood that one daughter, a Mrs. Turnbull, is still living in the city.

Shortly after the telegraph office was abandoned, a chap by the name of Bob McKenzie squatted on this land and built a small house or shack against the side of the hill about one hundred yards north of where the office



Close-up view of the remains of the Battleford Trail as can be seen today on the land of Simon Grue.

stood, and used the old telegraph office for a barn. He, too, ran a herd of cattle.

Other early settlers in this area were Pithouse and Chettleborough, who later homesteaded on the southeast and northeast of 6-49-21, respectively, and the Blakeley's. The Blakeley's at one time wintered about 300 head of cattle on a big slough about two hundred yards west of where the telegraph office stood, and had built an enormous long cattle shed against the side of a hill that was used as a wind-break against cold winter storms.

When Simon Grue homesteaded this land all that remained of the telegraph office was the log walls, the roof having fallen in some time back. He built his first homestead shack within a few feet of the remains of this old building, but later moved his building site about a quarter of a mile to the southeast. Raymond Stavne, who later married one of Mr. Grue's daughters, today has his home about 300 yards southeast of the site of the old telegraph office.

## TREES HELD INSULATORS

When the telegraph line was built, the wire was hung on insulators which were fastened to trees wherever possible, and where there were no trees available, poles were dug into the ground. Mr. Grue states that at the time he homesteaded, a considerable amount of wire and insulators still remained of the abandoned line, but this quickly disappeared as homesteaders began to move into the country. The late Ovel Ovelson of Kingman also stated that at the time he moved into the Kingman-Bardo district in 1894 the old telegraph line could still be seen a few miles south of Kingman.

The old Battleford Trail, at the time Mr. Grue homesteaded, was very well defined with deep ruts that varied from a foot to a foot and a half deep in places. Countless hundreds of Red River carts, drawn by a single ox, passed within sight of the telegraph office, during the years, carrying furs, food, supplies between Edmonton and Fort Garry. This

# Settle Bounty Land First

In the six to eight years before the turn of the century the first few settlers began to filter into the area from Hay Lakes to New Sarepta. Among the early known settlers were the Pithouse's, C. Cattleburgh, Blakely, Ole Lee, Nels Johnson, Hans Sanbo and Poulett Elliott. Poulett and his brother, Albert, who had emigrated in 1894 had spent two years in the Turnip Lake district north of Edmonton. In the spring of 1896 a party consisting of a man named Hutchings, and the two Elliott brothers, journeyed 35 miles southeast of Edmonton to the south half of 18-49-21.

This land was a Military Bounty Warrant, given to William Rowland for serving in the Riel Rebellion (refer to Ketchamoot), and had been purchased by Mr. Hutchings.

On arriving at Section 18, the party pitched camp for the night. They were amazed the next morning to hear what sounded exactly like the honk of a goose. They followed the sound to a homesteader's shack and there they met Charles Chattelburgh, one-time butler to Lord Melcombe of England. He was at this time an elderly gentleman

trail went southeast from Edmonton, past Hay Lakes, to a point where Lomnes later homesteaded north of Armena, and from there the trail turned east past the north side of Lake Demay and on to Battleford. Part of the old trail can still be seen on the Grue homestead, and although the deep ruts have pretty well filled and grown over with grass, they are still well defined.

While at Hay Lakes the McKernan's evidently had the misfortune to lose their eldest daughter, who died when she was about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and she was buried in a grave on a high ridge that runs east and west directly north of Mr. Stavne's barn. When Mr. Grue homesteaded here, the grave was well marked with stones, but today all that can be seen is a slight depression in the ground. In time this sacred spot will no doubt be completely forgotten, for nature in due time has a way of covering and hiding the man-made scars left on the face of the earth.

Today nothing remains to mark the spot where the first telegraph office in Central Alberta once stood, nearly eighty years ago. Mr. Grue tore down what was left of the log walls and broke up the land where it stood, seeding it to pasture. Today, cows graze where once could be heard the clicking dots and dashes of the Morse code as it spelled out telegram after telegram. The late Frank Farley once stated that in his opinion a cairn should be built to mark this spot. Should this ever come to pass, it would indeed be a fitting tribute to the memory of the old Hay Lakes telegraph office, once the most westerly station in the Dominion of Canada.

who had settled there two years earlier. The Chettleburgh farm is just on the north east edge of the present town of Hay Lakes.

Elliott bought the land and he and his brother spent two years clearing land, building a home and planting a few small fields. In 1898 Elliott's wife came over from England and settled down on the homestead. The next year their only child was born, Floringe, the first white child to be born at Hay Lakes.

This setting of peace and tranquility was not to last long. Soon it was disturbed by the thundering herds of cattle of Callahoon and Fergerson. Also the Blakely Bros., George and Bud, came with their horses. With the latter family came Mrs. Hope Blakely who became a lifelong friend of Mrs. Elliott's.

At first, South Edmonton, 35 miles away, was the nearest post-office and source of supplies. Later Bittern Lake post office and store was opened by Mr. Roper. In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. John Lund and daughters moved in, followed by a number of Norwegian and German families.

There was now the beginnings of a community so early in 1905 Mr. Elliott got up a petition for a local post office. Then arose the naming of the office as Mr. Elliott did not wish to use his name, Rev. Hailer, a Moravian minister, chose the Biblical name of New Sarepta.

The New Sarepta post office was opened in the Elliott residence with Mrs. Elliott in charge. The mail carrier, Mr. Martin Thompson, brought the mail from Bittern Lake, and later from Halley.

During the eight years Mr. Thompson and his buckskins never

missed one mail day. The post office continued there until the building of the C.N.R. from Camrose to Edmonton. In 1913 the office was moved to the town that bears its name, while the present town of Hay Lakes (which had called itself New Sarepta) reverted back to its former name.

The Grue Bros., sons of Thore Grue, and Christian Solid, who had pioneered first in the Armena area, came to Hay Lakes in 1900 and 1905. Many other settlers came to the Hay Lakes district four or five years after they had come to this section of Alberta, drifting in from Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Armena and Bittern Lake. Coming down from the Edmonton district was John Famulak and his wife.

His memories of the early days in Bittern Lake concern the heavy brush where women visiting one another, marked their way with pieces of cloth tied on the branches of the brush so that they could find their way home.

Hans Sandbo came in 1898 and started his homestead on the northeast of 36-22-49. Llvg Kopp came two years later to his homestead that was located 2½ miles south of where the town of Hay Lakes later sprang up. Shortly after he settled there the New Sarepta post office was opened and a small supply store called Litke served the settlers in his area. When Kopp started farming, the country was so wet that the farmers had to cut willows and place them in the trails so they wouldn't get stuck.

The Broen family were six miles east of Hay Lakes, served by the Lundemo store and post office. John Broen played the bass horn in the first Hay Lakes band and later owned a hardware store which is still in business. He was also a partner with Pithouse in the Hay Lakes General Store, started in 1914.

Martin Thompson and his wife were on the northwest of 20-49-21 and as Mrs. Thompson recalls it was very lonesome with few neighbors for company.

Jacob Welda who was on the northeast of 20-48-21 told of having to bring a hog to market in



Simon Grue stands on the spot of the Hay Lake Telegraph Station. In the background, to the left, can be seen the present-day remains of the old Battleford Trail, and the building of the town of Hay Lakes.

Camrose, some 20 odd miles away in the cold winter. The hog began to shiver and shake, and he feared the animal would freeze to death. He took off his fur coat and put it over the hog, then walked behind the sleigh to keep himself warm. In town he learned that it was 62 degrees below zero.

At the time he first settled in 1901 there was no bridge across the Pipestone Creek and he would have to swim his horses pulling his supply wagon homeward bound from Wetaskiwin. He played the violin and at times it was his meal ticket. When he first came to the States from Norway as a small lad, he played in lunch rooms for food. For many years he was leader of a community choir in the Hay Lakes district and later conducted his own family 6-piece orchestra.

#### SISTERS BROUGHT FAMILY OUT

Jacob Welda's wife, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Strand, had come to Wetaskiwin shortly after 1900. Mrs. Welda had a dressmaking shop and her sister Matilda taught school and finally they saved enough money to bring their parents up from the Dakotas to homestead in the Hay Lakes district. The Halley post office on the north side of Bittern Lake was their supply point, and is now the home of Edward Galenza.

August Lachman came out from Russia and came to Leduc in 1900, later coming to Hay Lakes and farming on the northeast quarter of 2-49-22 in 1903. Three sons are still farming in Hay Lakes, Christe, Emil and Gus.

Anton Sware and his wife, who were married in Sulitjelma, Norway, arrived in the Hay Lakes district in 1903, and settled on the northeast quarter of 20-49-21. They had enough money to buy one cow, recalls Mrs. Sware, and Mrs. Hendrickson from Armenia, gave them a chicken. They shared a horse with a neighbor. During the heavy spring rains the bridge connecting the farmyard and the barn would be swept away and they would swim across with the milkpail to milk the cow. Mrs. Sware brought her mother-in-law's spinning wheel over from Norway, and it is now over 80 years old and still in her possession.

#### INDIANS STOPPED AT WELL

John Sware and his wife came the same year, locating on the northwest of 14-49-21, where their nearest post office at that time was Lundemo. The water was all over the country at that time. Mrs. Sware who served as a mid-wife in the district, speaks of an old Indian trail that went through their yard, with the Indians stopping at their well for water.

Ole Sandbo came from Norway to this district in 1903 and settled on the northwest of 30-49-21 where he still resides. Mr. Sandbo, in recalling his early homestead days said that he had no trouble as he did not have a wife and family to worry about. He still farms and has a herd of cattle as well.

#### BRUSHED WAY TO CAMROSE

William August Henschell em-



The Hay Lakes Band, taken in 1914. Henry Zucht was one of the members.

migrated from Russia and settled in the Hay Lakes area in 1904 on the southeast quarter of 30-48-21 where he built a small house. The first years he slept in the same building as the horses were kept in as he was afraid the horses would freeze. Shortly after he and his wife were married in 1908 in Edmonton and spent their honeymoon on their homestead. Later they brushed their way to Camrose and sold a load of wood for a dollar, and buying groceries with the money. The store they would trade at was that of the Smith Bros. When they started to plow they found Indian hammers and hatchets, which are now in the museum in Saskatoon.

#### DISMANTLE WAGON IN SLOUGH

Karl Frank Heinz and his wife came over from Austria and settled at Hay Lakes in 1904 on the northeast of 4-49-22. Mr. Heinz was a blacksmith and locksmith in Austria and the former trade stood him in good stead. He can remember when it was a common occurrence to be stuck in a slough so deep it was necessary to dismantle the wagon before it could be retrieved. Since there wasn't a church in the district the services were held in the school. Ministers were not available and Mr. Heinz was given the authority to baptize the babies. Later when pastors were available the big problem was finding money to pay them with.

Hans Arntson worked on the C.P.R. line through the Pipestone at Gwynne until freeze-up and then homesteaded in February of 1905. His location was on the southwest of 32-49-21.

Lauritz Larsen freighted merchandise for the country store. He was later a general merchant, working for Ladell and Butcher in Camrose. They later moved their store to Rosenroll and then on to Bittern Lake. He was associated with Lars Maland from 1912 until 1914, before that time had operated a store with John Litke, later going into partnership with Maland, opening a store at Hay Lakes. The railway was built and the townsite of Hay Lakes was surveyed with the Maland and Larsen store being the first building. He married the daughter of John Lund (Inga) who had come with her parents to the district in 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLeod had come from Scotland and then on to Strathcona. Here he worked for Gainers, then the Strathcona Brewery, and the old Fort Edmonton was still standing. With crowds of other people they watched the first train pull into Edmonton. After 13 years they moved to the homestead in the Big Hay Lakes district, coming to Hay Lakes in 1908 when they purchased the Martin Westad farm.

Robert and other men started the village school when the townsite was made ready and he was also instrumental in getting the Big Hay Lake School started. He was a councillor of the L.I.D. all the years he was on the farm and started the early roadwork in his first early years as councillor.

#### LOG ROLLING CHAMP

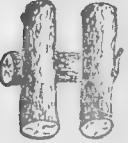
Martin Kaulitzke had first homesteaded in the Ministik Lake area, coming to Hay Lakes in 1909 and settling on the southwest 1/4 of 19-50-21. Three years previous to his coming to this area, he had won the Canadian log rolling championship at Fernie, B.C., and had been a tourist guide at Banff. He played hockey at Trail, B.C., and also was an enthusiastic football player.

The land which Joseph Edward Kraemer came to was about half lake and he and a neighbor undertook to drain this land and seed it to hay. This venture turned the tide for it was very successful and enabled the family to get off to a firm start again. Conditions gradually improved for the Kraemers. Mr. Kraemer was one of the first members on the School Board when the district was formed and served on it for many years.

#### Family of Ludvig Kopf



# Early Brand Reader

 ENTRY GEORGE PITHOUSE had come over from Sandon, England, and taken a homestead in New Sarepta, North West Territories in 1902 on the southeast quarter of 6-49-21.

Trading was done mostly in South Edmonton and Mr. Pithouse has a number of old documents, receipts and letters from his first years. At that time he was in the Local Improvement District No. 581 and a tax receipt shows that he paid \$6 on his quarter for the years 1902-03-04. Taxes were paid to the Government of the Northwest Territories, Dept. of Public Works, Local Improvement Branch at Regina.

Another interesting paper was a receipt for one bay mare which was written on the stationery of the Royal Hotel, Strathcona, and shows a picture of the "first class hotel, N. J. Webster, proprietor." A promissory note was signed by Mr. Pithouse at Strathcona with the International Harvester Co. of America, for \$40.00 for one mower and hay rake. Another receipt was dated January 29th, 1900, for \$5 on harness, by the Great West Saddlery Company. The first lumber yard was on the Pithouse land, run by Sydney Cubbin.

Henry Pithouse had a brand registered for his cattle with the Dept. of Agriculture at Regina as early as 1901, being an upside down "S" over a half diamond. According to the memorandum which accompanied this brand registration, cattle brands as then allotted consisted of one selected letter and one figure with a bar, quarter circle or half diamond above or below the letter. At this time the selection of the brand was not in the hands of the applicant, but was given out in rotation by the office of the recorder of the brands. These brands were hip and shoulder brands, and the applicant could choose the brand for the jaw and neck of cattle. Horse brands could be selected, and could be brands already registered for cattle.

Mr. Pithouse was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1906, a game guardian, brand reader, later going into the general store business in partnership with Broen in 1916 in Hay Lakes.

John Grahn and his family had homesteaded on the northwest of 36-49-22 in 1902 and his son Oscar recalls that the first store in their district was run by Martin Westad in 1904 on the farm now farmed by Jim McLeod. Oscar started the garage and livery in Hay Lakes in the Spring of 1919.

Two miles west of Hay Lakes was John Zucht and his wife who had come over from Germany, settling first in Leduc and then coming to Hay Lakes in 1902.

The parents of Mrs. Eugene Ewald, the Hendricksons, came to the Bittern Lake district in 1902 from Norway and settled 12 miles north of what later was Camrose.



THE LARS LARSEN STORE—First in the town

## Swedes Bring Friends

Men like Axel Selin can look back on nearly a century of living, through the evolution of the exciting inventions of the nineteenth century. For Mr. Selin at the age of ninety years looks back on his years of travel, hardship and experiences and sees the impressive strides made by countries and people.

Axel Kristofferson Selin was born in Ronnas, near Wilhelmina, in Sweden in 1865, and was married to his wife, Agatha, in the Wilhelmina Lutheran Church in Sweden. Four children were born to this union in the Old Country: Oscar, Walter, Jenny (Mrs. Jonas Grundberg) of Dinant), and Herman. Three sons were born in Canada; Oliver, Albert, and Stanley.

In 1900 the Lunde's and Saboe's emigrated to Canada from Sweden and homesteaded in what is known as the Lundemo district. Lunde homesteaded on the farm now occupied by Anders Lyseng and Stable homesteaded the land presently occupied by Sebastian Zeller. Mrs. Lunde was well acquainted with the Selins in Sweden so she wrote to them telling of all the homestead land available in Canada. She presented glowing prospects of the future, asking them to move to this country and settle near by.

This Axel Selin decided to do, so with his wife and four small children and a brother, Petter, they set out for the nearest railroad about seven Swedish miles or nearly fifty English miles.

Mr. Selin homesteaded the northwest quarter of 36-48-21 the same year he arrived and then set to work to build himself a house from hewn logs.

Although the Selin's lived on

the Lunde homestead for three years before moving to their own farm, their homestead house was nevertheless used by many other settlers as a stopping place.

Mr. and Mrs. Selin wrote back to Sweden to the Erik Victor Erickson family and asked them to come to Canada too, which they did, and in the years that followed many other families also came and settled near by.

Before the Lundemo store and post office came into being, the nearest trading store was the Roper store at Bittern Lake, and it was from here and Wetaskiwin that they got their supplies.

Mr. Selin states that in those days this area from his homestead north to the lakes was consisted of solid bush, sloughs, muskrats, beavers and Indians. The Winnipeg trail ran near by to the south of his place as it wound its way around sloughs and low lying areas.

In 1908 Axel Selin together with Pastor Lindgren, Erik Victor Erickson, and other settlers organized an Augustana Lutheran congregation which they named after the old home church in Sweden, Wilhelmina. Mr. Selin has served for years as a trustee and on the board of deacons and also purchased the church organ in Winnipeg with money saved by the young people of the church. He also served as church organist for many years.

His wife passed on in 1945 but Mr. Selin still lives in his own house on the same homestead now owned by his son, Stanley. He is very hale and hearty and still can get out and swing an axe to cut his year's supply of firewood.



Wilhelmina congregation holds first services within the foundations of their church.

# Abundant Hay Named Townssite

ALTHOUGH the village was established with the coming of the railroad in 1911, it was not officially incorporated as such until 1927. For the first while the growing settlement took the name of New Sacepta, called after the post office that was two miles north of the town, but it was later changed to Hay Lakes, named after the two lakes abundant in hay close by.

For the years before incorporation Hay Lakes was a hamlet in the Municipal District of Tofield, and has recently been included in the district of Camrose. Hein, Larsen and Grahn were among the first village councillors.

Martin Westad had opened the first store in the district in 1903 on the present Jim McLeod farm. Then Larson and Maland took over on the Westad place, and later came to Hay Lakes in 1912.

John Grahn's boarding house was added to the townssite in 1913 as was the implement business of Jack Diewert. In 1915 came the F. A. Henschell blacksmith shop and Hans Brekke. John E. Broen and Pithouse established their store, and handled John Deere Im-



CHRISTIAN SOLLID, TAKEN IN 1898

plements as well.

Manning Sutherland Lumber Co. came also in 1915 and the Burns' creamery the same year.

A U.F.A. hall was built and a grain elevator by the United Grain Growers in 1917.

A railroad survey by the Canadian Northern came through and established the townsite in 1911 and the steel was laid in 1912. In the spring of 1913 the station was built, along with a temporary water tank.

## FIRST LOTS

The townsite sits on the land of Pithouse and the first townsite lots were purchased by L. Larson and John Grahn.

The early U.F.A. hall was used as a village school and it was later purchased and moved to the present school grounds. O'Connor and Gemory were the first teach-

ers in the village.

Early families who played a significant part in the early growth of the village were Larson, Grahn, Jock Diewert, Bob McKay and Hans Brekke. Baseball and tennis were early sports and a Hay Lakes Band was also organized.

One of the telephone poles of the early Hay Lakes telegraph station was on the townsite. Horse racing and horseshoe pitching were among the early sports enjoyed by the villagers.

The L. Larson general store which handled groceries, drygoods, footwear and hardware (opened in 1912 by Larson and Maland) prospered through the years and today is the Hay Lakes Merchantile operated by Lober and Fisher.

The present Red and White store was started in 1910 by Lars Larson with Henschell and Zucht freighting from Camrose before the railway.

# P.O. Opened by Waldum

John Waldum was a sturdy pioneer, ambitious and progressive, a real man of the soil who had an eye for business, too. He first emigrated from near Trondhjem in Norway, to Iowa in the United States, and from thence to South Dakota, where he homesteaded. This, however, happened to be at the time when so many people were flocking from the Dakotas and Minnesota into Western Canada, so due time his request was granted. He was appointed postmaster, and he set up his post office in his own home and called it Lundemo.

For a short time the mail was taken from Wetaskiwin, but after C. T. C. Roper built his store and post office at Bittern Lake, the mail was then hauled from there. Harold Person was the first mail hauler between Bittern Lake and Lundemo, and he made these trips regularly with a team of horses. A daughter, Mrs. John Person, is still living on her father's homestead near the Wilhelmina church.

A year or two later Mr. Waldum decided to start a store in connection with the post office, so he put in a good stock of groceries and dry goods. He put his daughter, Julia (later Mrs. Frank Johnson) to work as a clerk. To this day, she can still remember selling five pounds of coffee for a dollar.

One serious drawback, however, was the lack of a store or post office—the nearest one being at Wetaskiwin, some thirty-five miles distant.

More and more homesteaders were gradually filtering into the district, so John decided to petition the Dominion government in Ottawa for a post office, and in

With the hamlet of Kingman coming into being on the Grand Trunk between Tofield and Camrose in 1909, Waldum no longer hauled his mail from Bittern Lake, picking it up in Kingman instead. Other small places came into being—Dinant and Hay Lakes, and with the resulting increase in competition, he finally disposed of his stock of dry goods and groceries, but retained the post office until he died in 1928.

The last few years before he died, he hauled his mail with a Model "T" Ford, and was a well known figure in Kingman on mail day.

With the death of Mr. Waldum, the post office of Lundemo was taken over by Mrs. Ralph Hatfield, who became the new postmistress. The Hatfield's lived a half mile south of the original Lundemo site, and this became the new post office—remaining there until 1948, when the Hatfield's sold out and moved away.

Lundemo was then closed, and there disappeared forever a landmark that had served this district for nearly half a century.

Mr. Sebastian Zeller purchased the Waldum homestead, and Mr. Lars Maland purchased the Hatfield farm. Of the old Lundemo store and post office built by Waldum, nothing remains but the cellar, a hole in the ground overgrown by grass and weeds. Lundemo is now just another page in the history of the early west.

# Kingman Stop on GTP

1909 and the several years following, saw in this section of Alberta dozens of towns springing up so rapidly that on leaving the outskirts of one town one could almost see the smoke of another town rising in the distance. The rapid expansion of the railways were a colonization necessity, for settlers wanted to be assured of transportation within a reasonable distance from their intended farming lands. Thus it was with Kingman. The GTP had surveyed their main line from Tofield to Calgary, and the first station they built on this line was in Kingman. The steel passed through the newly surveyed townsite in 1909, and then the settlers knew for a certainty that a town was bound to rise.

## SECOND HOPE DIED

The C.P.R. had also surveyed their main line from Winnipeg to Edmonton to pass slightly south of the townsite and hopes doubled for the prosperity of the proposed town. However, the hope died as the survey was abandoned.

The townsite was surveyed on the southwest and northwest of Section 8-49-19, on the land that belonged to Edmund Thompson and Paulson, in 1909. Soon after this the first buildings rose, two stores, a livery stable and a blacksmith shop were erected by these men. Of the two stores one was a duplex on the north side and the other was opposite on the south side of main street. The livery stable and blacksmith shop were erected on Block 4 on Paulson Street. When completed, the store on the south side was occupied by a firm known as Taje, Olson & Rogness. They had come from Bawlf, and after a year's time the partnership was dissolved and the store taken over by Taje.

Various other occupants from 1911 up until the present time have included Lars Johnson of Bardo, G. Sanford of Edmonton (with Harry Griux as manager, who was later killed in the first World War). Then came the Rogers Bros. branch store from Tofield, with Albin Anderson as manager, and Mah Hong. In 1923 the building was purchased by Mah Him and Mah Dong, the present owners, and operated under the name of the International Store Company. The building was replaced in 1947 by a modern stucco building.

A. Horte, and sons Olaf and Thor, took possession of the duplex building on the north side of main street. This was a thriving business and they carried a stock of around \$15,000, consisting of groceries, dry goods, clothing, and hardware, as well as being agents for the International Harvester Co. They also operated a cream-testing station for the Edmonton City Dairy. They had a turnover of four to five hundred dollars a day and kept five clerks busy from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m.

## LARGE DRAWING AREA

When Kingman was off to its start, there were no stores in Hay Lakes, so there was a large area to draw from. The various occupants of this store until 1927, when it was destroyed by fire, were: Bird

Randall and Darby of Edmonton, George Bruce branch store from Tofield, C. Sealund from Meeting rose. Ted Severson of Camrose, Pete Rodnunsky and Frank Hardin.

The livery stable was operated by Christensen Bros. of Bawlf, until 1910, when it was taken over by Thor Horte and Hans Haugland. The barn was destroyed by fire in 1925. The blacksmith shop was started in 1910 by Oscar Haug of Camrose, as the first blacksmith. Later it was taken over by Carl Blyckert, in 1912, who came here with his family from Stockholm, Sweden.

Frances Kingsbury started a post office on the northeast of section 4-48-19 in 1904 and called it Kingman. Later, in 1910, the post office was moved to the townsite and carried with it the name of Kingman. Evenson and Dale, from Ihlen, Minnesota, built a lumberyard in 1910, which they operated until 1913, when they sold to Andrew Johnson, a Bardo farmer. Johnson sold it in 1916 to Manning-Sutherland of Camrose, and the same yard is now under the management of the Beaver Lumber Company.

Chris Gaalaas of Bawlf, built a

cafe on the south side of main street in 1910.

## LODGING HOUSE

Charlie Lindberg opened a lodging house and restaurant, and Mrs. Lindberg's dressmaking establishment drew a lot of patronage from the ladies. Morton and Adams of Tofield, were early grain-buyers in the district.

Early in the development of the town grew the Kingman Literary Society, composed of young and old, who found productive entertainment for the long winter months. The literary society even had a weekly newspaper called "The Village Whip", editors being J. Fletcher and F. Kingsbury. Debates and budget socials were features of society's meetings.

## RESIDENT DOCTOR

Kingman was fortunate in having a doctor located so early in the history of the town. Dr. Emmett, formerly of Edmonton, came to Kingman and took an active interest in the welfare of the growing community.

## GATEWAY TO MIQUELON

One of the trump cards held by town of Kingman was its close proximity to the Miquelon Lakes. Two miles west of the town lay a chain of three lakes, and the town was soon to become a popular transportation and supply point for Camrose residents during the summer months. First Miquelon lake in those early years was at the height of its development as a resort, and the advent of the GTP line doubled the prospect. Kingman became known as "The Gateway to the Miquelons" and derived many benefits from its closeness to the resort.



1909 — Trout taken in Cold Lake, weighing 61½ pounds.  
Mott and Thompson are the lucky fishermen.  
Mott was a Camrose butcher.

# P.O. Served Kingman

Four other families came into the Kingman area before the turn of the century, the two Ovelson families, the Fletcher Bros., and Simon and Hans Simonson.

Knute and Tore Ovelson and Simon and Hans Simonson came in 1894 from Moorhead, Minnesota, and were guided by Ed. Thompson. There were only three settlers between Wetaskiwin and their destination 45 miles northeast and they finally located north and east of Kingman.

In 1897 a post office was opened on Pete Levning's farm, ten miles east, which was called Northern, and later changed to Bardo, which gave these families mail service once a month. The Willow Flats School was built in 1903 and Miss Swabric was the first teacher. The Bardo district gradually filled up.

Knut Ovelson had come to the country as a widower with his two sons, William and Oscar, and one daughter, Hannah. William homesteaded the northeast of 18-49-19 with Knut dying in 1897.

Tore Ovelson passed away in 1925, but two sons of his, Andrew and Lassie, remain in Kingman.

James and Robert Fletcher and Robert and Samuel Stirret, who were cousins, came to the district in 1893, originating from Ireland. The four boys homesteaded around Kingman.

The years from 1900 until 1904 saw more settlers come into the Kingman area. Nels Mosland came in 1901. He was and remained single, proved up on his homestead and lived there until the time of his retirement.

Swedish-born Erick Hoflin had done a lot of travelling before he made his second trip to the Americas, this time choosing Canada. With his wife and four children he came to the Kingman district and settled on the southeast of 22-49-19.

In 1913 he took a team of horses and headed for Grande Prairie (425 miles) and purchased a quarter section of land with soldiers' scrip. He returned to Kingman shortly after when his wife took ill. 3 more children were born in Camrose.

One and a half miles north of Kingman was the homestead in 1901 of Peter Scramstad. He and his wife had come from Minnesota to farm. In 1905 they moved to Camrose where Mr. Scramstad built a livery stable and a boarding house known as the Farmers' Inn. These buildings were located north of the Heather Brae Hotel. In 1911 he built a skating rink near the old bridge across the dam. In 1914 this building collapsed from the weight of snow on the roof. Mr. Scramstad served as caretaker of Camrose Normal School 22 years.

In 1902 a widow, Mrs. Bjarkeg, came to the district with her large family of five boys and four girls, living on the southeast of 32-49-19. Son Albert homesteaded and later took up the barbering trade. Two other boys, Ludvig and Nels, also

followed suit, learned the trade, and are established in Edmonton.

Jacob Langbell came to the Kingman district in 1902 from Coal Harbor, North Dakota. With them they brought their 3 children, Chris, Emil and Christina and homesteaded on the southeast of 24-49-19. Here they lived until 1906 when they moved to Camrose and built the Heather Brae Hotel. This they operated for a number of years under the name of Langbell Hotel. In the winter of 1906 this hotel was also used as a hospital. Two major operations were performed in the hotel by Dr. Lamb.

Jacob Langbell sold his hotel to the Jevne Bros. of New Norway and Cold Lake districts. The Jevne's sold again to the Walkemeyer's of Heather Brae district about 1910.

This building was later used as a school by the Camrose Lutheran College until their building was completed. Their son Chris operated a photo studio in Camrose and he was soon joined in partnership by his brother Emil and they operated under the name of Langbell Photograph Gallery for many years. Christina married Clarence Simonson and resides in Kingman

at the present time.

Emil finally left the photo business and went to Penticton, B.C. Chris Langbell is still in business in Camrose in his own studio.

Erik Erickson had come from Sweden to Alberta in 1904 and homesteaded three miles south of Bawlf. Later he took sub-contracting on railroad construction on the C.P.R. between Wetaskiwin and the Saskatchewan border. He also worked on the Grand Trunk between Edmonton and Tofield in the Beaver Hills area.

His railway career ended in 1912 when he was injured in a train wreck on the C.P.R. between Carstairs and Crossfield. He went back to his homestead for a time, and then went into partnership at Ferintosh in the lumber business, under the name of Erickson and Hanson Lumber Company. They hauled seven carloads of lumber from Bittern Lake with horses. He operated many lumber yards, in Kingman with Manning Sutherland, and Beaver Lumber at Bawlf and the Imperial Lumber Co., at Marsden, Sask. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson retired to Kingman where they now reside. Of their family of two sons and two daughters, one remained in the district. John U. Erickson farms in the East Hay Lakes district.

## Guide Brought Bakken

One of the very first settlers in what was to become the Kingman district was Edmund Thompson who came to the district in 1891 from Wetaskiwin. He homesteaded on the west side of Crooked Lake with part of his time spent as a land guide. Land seekers were sparse at that time and provided very little income for Thompson.

His family arrived in 1895 and took up residence on the homestead for several years. They then moved to a place on the east side of the lake where they spent a couple of years. Then they moved back to the west side again and also lived at Pretty Hill, seven miles north of Camrose.

During this period Ed. Thompson had various jobs. He worked on the C.P.R. in the Crow's Nest area, also on surveying in the same area. Without previous experience he took a job as cook in a railway camp where he cooked for 80 men.

Toward the late '90's land seekers were coming in greater numbers and he went back to his former occupation as land guide. By 1900 the settlers came in great numbers and at times three to four wagonloads of land seekers would leave Wetaskiwin in one party heading east. Thompson bought and sold land and his fortune started to pile up. At the time that the townsite of Sparling (later Camrose) was surveyed he owned several parcels of land in the district.

He drove Ole Bakken out from Wetaskiwin and when they came to the southwest quarter of section 2-47-20 Bakken decided that was

his, for he liked the Stoney Creek running through the southwest corner, and visioned that some day a city would rise from this land. Many legends have grown from Ole's dream. After the visit of the survey engineers to Sparling, Ole Bakken sold one-third interest in his land to Thompson, and one-third interest to another Kingman man, John Paulson. Paulson immediately opened a real estate office with a view to selling town-site lots.

In 1906 Thompson and Thomas Dahl started a liquor store and a grocery store on main street in Camrose, and Thompson, Dahl and Hjem started a butcher shop, also on main street.

Thompson carried on with his land deals and at one time owned more than 60 quarters in the Camrose, Wetaskiwin and Cold Lake areas. It was estimated that his agricultural holdings were worth over a quarter of a million dollars.

Thompson joined James and Frank Pike and Michael Sheady in a ranching syndicate that purchased a large tract of land near Sexsmith, consisting of lake and lake bottom. After the costly project of draining this land they kept 2700 head of cattle, built a shed to house 700 calves and had 8 flowing wells on the place.

In 1919 after the bottom dropped out of the cattle market at the end of the war, Thompson came out of the venture with most of his money gone.

At this time he returned to Kingman and made his home on his farm. He died in 1926, and his wife passed away in 1933.

# Minister Came at 73

One of the most widely known group of settlers who came before the turn of the century was that headed by Peter Bersvend Anderson, a Norwegian group which settled in the Bardo district, south of Tofield and about twenty-six miles north of Camrose. Peter was the son of the Reverend Bersvend Anderson, who had emigrated to Canada in 1894 with his wife and eight children. The minister was born at Bardo, Norway, and emigrated at the age of 73 years. For five years he was the only Norse Lutheran minister in Canada, and served the Red Deer Valley, Tofield, Camrose, and Edmonton district.

## STOVE IN SLEIGH

Rev. Bersvend made himself a sleigh, containing a sheet iron stove, so he could travel in the winter. Once when he lost his way he spent the night in his sleigh. "Old Sam" his black horse became almost as famous as his master. Once in flood time, while crossing a creek in a wagon, Rev. Anderson's satchel floated downstream. He lived, farmed and fished in the Tofield-Bardo area.

Rev. Anderson became a well-known writer as well as a preacher, and preached in the Camrose Lutheran College at the age of 93 years. In 1915, at the age of 94 years, he was guest of honor at the annual convention of the Hauges Synod of the Lutheran Church at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Here he was presented with a gold-headed cane which, he insisted, was far too grand for him. Later, when using the cane, he covered the gold knob with a piece of paper.

His son, Peter, labelled "The Black Norwegian", settled in the

Bardo area and associated himself conscientiously all his life with church work.

Rev. O. N. Ronning (father of Chester Ronning) was another prosperous Bardo farmer, who carried on missionary work as well.

Other settlers in the Bardo district were Johannes Johnson, T. R. Rorem, H. Olson, Martin Finseth, H. Eggan, Ant Bartness and C. Roth.

On June 19th, of this year, the Bardo congregation celebrated their 60th anniversary. Organized in 1895, the church had the Rev. B.



The Rev. B. M. Anderson family enjoy an outdoor meal.

# Cree Chief to the Rescue

The story of how the Ketchamoot District got its name is one of the most interesting bits of history discovered in the fifty year perusal of events in the Camrose and district area. Several hundred years before the settlement of this section of Alberta, it was a hunters' paradise. The large lake near the school was then known by the Indians as Beaver Hills Lake, long before the white man ever saw it. The chain of hills to the west was full of large and small lakes which swarmed with beaver. The large creek, which runs into the south end of the lake was called then, as it still is, the Amisk Creek, Amisk being the Cree word for beaver.

## FIRE SWEPT HILLS

The hills to the west were covered with a thick growth of forest, through which swarmed all sorts of wild game. During the first part of the nineties this range of hills was swept with a fire, from which it never regained its former luxuriance. The fire stripped it clean of vegetation and in some parts the soil itself was burnt down to the clay.

Quite naturally, this rich hunting ground was a very bitterly

Anderson as their first pastor. It is well remembered by the early residents that Rev. Anderson sometimes stood on a chair with his ear trumpet, the better to hear visiting speakers.

Rev. T. T. Carlson, who assumed the duties of the aged Rev. Bersvend Anderson, also took over the territory served by him. Rev. A. Hjortaaas was called in as assistant pastor in 1908, becoming a full-time incumbent the following year. Many pastors served the church in the years that followed. In 1921, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. However, it was rebuilt and opened again the following year.

Around 1948 the church again suffered a loss when prowlers broke in and removed the communion set and other articles of value. The parish grew over the years, finally taking in six congregations which were finally split into two parishes. Bardo now belongs to the Kingman parish, along with the congregation of Trondhjem.

this part of the country, and the River, for about twenty miles on either side. Whether this river received its name in this way, is still under question. The Blackfeet, whose main camp was Sarcee (just outside of where Calgary now is), were proving very troublesome to the Crees at this time and had commenced to make rapid raids around the south-west end of the Beaver Hills. Not wishing to lose this great hunting ground the Crees, in the year 1860 or 1862, persuaded another Cree Chief to come from Fort Pitt with 400 braves. This chief was known as Ketchamoot. They soon had the Blackfeet on the run and Chief Ketchamoot remained in the country, later being buried on the banks of the creek that bears his name.

About the year 1900, settlers began moving into the district south and west, with the Owen, Henderson, Coombs and Black families coming. With the exception of the Black's, the land remained for many years in the hands of the original owners.

By 1906, enough people had moved in to form a school district, and a school was built that year. Old "Dad" Storey built the school, and Miss Janet Day was the first

teacher. Jack Mitchell was the first secretary, with G. W. Sears, John McGinitie and Doug Black as the first trustees.

#### FIRE JUMPED RIVER

William A. Mitchell came to the Ketchamoot district in 1896 with his father, the year that the great prairie fire jumped the North Saskatchewan river.

Mackenzie post office, run on the farm of Roderick Mackenzie, was the nearest one at that time and was situated 7 miles north of the present town of Tofield.

#### MADE THRESHING MACHINE

One of his early memories were of the first threshing machine in the district that his father and another settler made and called "the Beaver Lake Chief".

When the GTP bridge was built over the Battle River in 1909-10 William Mitchell worked as a rod man under Julian Garrett, who was the engineer in charge of the project. Garrett later became one of the chief executives for Northwest Utilities Ltd. After completion of this bridge, Mitchell stayed on for six weeks and went over every bolt

and timber in the bridge to see that all the bolts had burrs on them.

When Chester William Coombes came into the Ketchamoot country, the Logan post office, 20 miles north of his place, brought the mail to the settlers by pack horse. Supply points were Strathcona, 60 miles to the northwest, or Wetaskiwin.

John Maurice McGinitie, who had come from Eddyville, Iowa, to Strathcona and on to Ketchamoot, settled on the southwest of 28-50-19. His mail was picked up at the Northern post office, which was later to become Bardo.

## One-Time Sanctuary May Stage Come-Back

To the present-day generation now growing up, the mention of First Miquelon Beach probably would not strike any response whatsoever, but to some of the older people it would let loose a flood of memories that would go back to the days when Miquelon Lake was one of the most popular lakes for hunting, camping and boating in this part of Alberta, and in particular the Camrose district.

#### WATERFOWL PARADISE

It was a veritable paradise for waterfowl of every description, thousands upon thousands of the feathered creatures visiting there every summer. In the heavily wooded area surrounding the lake, ruffed grouse could be found in almost every thicket, and deer and the odd black bear could be seen, too. In the sloughs and marshes was an abundance of muskrats which the early homesteaders trapped and shot every spring in order to provide a little extra income for the purchase of food and clothing and other necessities of life. Jackfish and suckers were plentiful in Miquelon and particularly so in Oliver, St. Joseph, and Ministik Lakes to the west and northwest. Many early settlers recall setting out nets in these lakes and taking fish home by the sackfuls to be divided amongst close neighbors and friends.

#### PELICAN NESTING GROUND

Miquelon Lake is located about thirteen miles straight north of Camrose in the extreme southern end of the Beaver Hills and, at the time of high water, actually consisted of a chain of three lakes which were connected by channels which could be navigated by canoe and motor boat. These lakes were eventually named First, Second and Third Miquelon Lakes. Between First and Second lakes was a group of small islands, and other islands could be found in Second and Third lakes. Of particular interest was one island located near the north side of Third lake, where for centuries the pelicans and cormorants had returned every year without fail to their nesting grounds. There were pelicans by the hundreds which nested on the ground on this small island, and during the nesting season it was almost impossible to walk about without stepping on a nest.

#### 7,000 ACRES

At the time of the high water, Miquelon Lake covered a total area of nearly 7,000 acres, and was so named at the time the first land survey went through this area. It is said that one of the chief surveyors named this lake after a very close friend of his by the name of Miquelon who was at one time a pioneer in the Wetaskiwin district. A son, P. A. Miquelon, now living in Edmonton, is at present an organizer for the Elks' Lodge, and who has visited Camrose on various occasions.

With the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway east from Wetaskiwin to Winnipeg, which began in 1904, the town of Sparling, later changed to Camrose, came into being. The next few years saw a steady influx of young men, many of them from Ontario and Eastern Canada setting themselves up in business and anxious

to try their fortunes in this vast new land which was gradually being opened up to civilization.

In 1909 the Grand Trunk Pacific began building a railway from Tofield through Camrose to Calgary, and this necessitated the building of two tremendous wooden bridges, one across the Stoney Creek in Camrose and the other across the Battle River near Duhamel, which was at that time the largest wooden bridge in the world.

#### SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Just about this time some of the young business and professional men in Camrose formed a Sportsmen's Club, and decided to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Miquelon Lake. They planned to build themselves a log cabin to be used as a club house and hunting lodge, enabling them to take advantage of the good hunting. Some of the members of this club at the time included J. K. Burgess, Jim Pike, Dr. Lamb, Hiram Burgar and others. So accordingly they enlisted the aid of some of the members of the bridge gang then working in Camrose, and it is interesting to note here that Julian Garret who was in later years well known as the head of Northwestern Utilities in Edmonton, was then the engineer in charge of construction for the Grand Trunk. However, a very nice log cabin was eventually built in very short order, complete with a nice stone fireplace and all the trimmings. This cabin was built on perhaps a hundred yards or so from the water's edge, just in on the land homesteaded by Nils Johnson, and now owned by Clifford Christensen.

#### HUNTING CABINS

No land was purchased for this site, but permission was given by Mr. Johnson to go ahead and build the cabin. With the acquisition of a boat, the members were now in a position to enjoy some of the best duck and goose shooting to be found anywhere in the west. When the shooting season opened the livery stable in Camrose did a rushing business in driving members back and forth between Camrose and the lake with horses. However, some had their own horse and buggy rigs, and it was also possible to travel by train to Kingman and then hire a livery outfit from there to the lake which is a distance of only three and on half miles.

During those early years the duck season used to open in August and



Mute evidence of the resort cabins at Miquelon Lake is shown here in the fireplace and remnants of the J. K. Burgess cabin.

a short Spring shoot was also allowed. The best shooting was found in the narrows between the lakes where the ducks and geese would fly back and forth from one lake to the other.

#### LAYTON ENTERPRISE

In the meantime Mr. F. P. Layton, the first "overseer" of the town of Camrose and one-time mayor, saw the possibilities of establishing a summer resort at Miquelon, for the beach below the Burgess cabin, and extending all around the bay, was very sandy and free of stones. The slope of the water was very gradual and therefore safe for children.

So he acquired this fraction of a quarter section of land, and then sub-divided the land running back from the lake shore in lots. He built a cottage himself and then interested other business men in Camrose to build cottages there too.

#### LOTS SOLD

Among the families who built summer homes at Miquelon were Francois Adam, a pioneer merchant, engineer and fur trader, residing at the present time in Camrose; J. Adair Younge, another pioneer merchant, who passed away last year; John Douglas, who for many years was a C.P.R. station agent in Camrose; Hiram Burgar, pioneer merchant and undertaker; George Peter Smith, first publisher of The Camrose Canadian, later Liberal MLA and Minister of Education for Alberta; Frank P. Layton, a Camrose pioneer who passed away last year; Duncan Sampson, the first merchant in Camrose, who passed away at the Coast in 1931; Watson Younge, brother of Adair, who later returned to Ontario where he still resides; Ted Severson who managed the Windsor Hotel in Camrose on the site of the present Alice Hotel, which later burned down; and of course, J. K. Burgess, well-known lawyer in Camrose who passed away in 1951.

The Geo. P. Smith cottage was later sold to Chas. Duggan, the Watson Younge cottage to V. W. Smith, Minister of Telephones and

Telegraphs in the UFA government in Alberta; and the Severson cottage was later sold to D. R. Francoeur, still residing in Camrose. At the time V. W. Smith had a cottage at the lake he was responsible for a telephone line to be brought into the beach, and several of the cottage owners were quick to avail themselves of this service.

#### GOOD BOATING

Miquelon was well adapted for boating with all its islands, channels and scenery, so it was only natural that every cottager should have a boat or a canoe. Several large motor boats with inboard motors finally made their appearance and these were owned by J. K. Burgess, Ted Severson, Martin Lind, Hiram Burgar, V. Matejka and Dave Sutherland. Duncan Sampson and Alex Burgess were among those who had canoes, and many others had rowboats.

#### BOAT HOUSES

The problem then arose as to how some of these large motor boats could be stored when not in use so a small boathouse was built by two or three of the owners. This eventually proved to be too small so a larger one with six big boat stalls was built to accommodate the larger motor boats on the lake. It was quite a structure, built on piles in the bay with a long wharf reaching from the boathouse to the shore.

In the spring of 1911 a friendly, good-natured Swede by the name of Albert Swanson from Minneapolis, together with his wife Bertha, and daughter Helen, homesteaded on a piece of land on the west side of Second Lake. He had a good eye for business, for when all these summer homes were built and the families moved into them it was not long before he was doing a good business selling chickens, eggs, cream, butter and milk to the campers. He built a small boat landing just below the hill where his buildings stood, and the campers found it very convenient to travel to Swansons by boat to replenish their larder.

#### BIRD SANCTUARY

The late Frank Farley who was so well known throughout Alberta and Western Canada for his work in ornithology, foresaw great possibilities for Miquelon as a bird sanctuary and through his untiring efforts Miquelon Lake was finally declared a bird sanctuary by the Alberta Government and closed to public shooting.

Memory seems to recall that T.C. Battram was the first game warden in this area. He had a homestead between Oliver and St. Joseph Lakes, and was appointed as a warden in May of 1911 by Mr. Harvey, of the Alberta Government.

One of the reasons for all this concerns the Miquelon Lake watershed which does not cover a very large area. The lakes have no inlet and have to depend mainly upon a fairly consistent annual rainfall in order to maintain the water level.

#### DRAINED TO STONEY CREEK

From the turn of the century up until the early 1920's there was enough rainfall during the summer and snow during the winter to keep the water level at a fairly high point. From then on, however, the level gradually dropped more and more each year, and it became necessary to go farther and farther out on the beach to reach the water's edge. The real blow that finished the resort came when the Calgary Power Company decided to deepen the natural outlet leading from the southwest corner of First Lake to drain the water into Stoney Creek and the reservoir in Camrose, and thus provide an additional supply of water for the town.

It was not many years until the water level dropped to an all-time low, and now it is no longer possible to travel by boat from one lake to another. The channels were all dry, and numerous new islands began to show up here and there.

#### WATER LEVEL RISES

It was finally realized that Miquelon Lake would no longer be able to supply Camrose with a steady supply of water and the distance was rather far, so the project was abandoned. The ditch is now blocked where the water left the lake and with the heavy rainfall of the past few years the water level surprisingly enough has raised about a foot and a half. Sloughs and creeks are again filled to overflowing and with a few more wet years the lakes could conceivably fill up once more.

During the later years a nice sand beach has been found to be very popular at the east end of Third Lake for swimming and picnicking but the big drawback has been poor roads into the lake.

There have been rumors that a cottage or two might be built there, and with a good road now in the offing, this is not impossible. Another Miquelon Beach could then be in the making, and history could repeat itself. Who knows?

# Wild New Ranch Country

About the turn of the century the country around Round Hill was a wild ranching country situated many miles from transportation facilities. At this time the area was considered by most ranchers and farmers as the fringe of civilization, but nevertheless the hardy pioneers plodded ahead, settled in this fringe area and proceeded to make their livelihood from the soil and the grazing lands.

In due course the tide of immigration reached this area even though at that time there was no prospect of a railroad. The imaginary mountains which hemmed the district in from anything but the occasional intercourse with the larger centres were to gradually disappear, for in this early population was the bright hope that someday the district would be served.

## PIONEER MERCHANT

Meanwhile the new settlers arrived and the district began to gradually turn into a mixed farming area and the produce was marketed as often as convenience and necessity dictated. Emil Bosmans, who had been a homesteader in the Bittern Lake area, came to the ranching country between 1901 and 1902 to re-establish himself. He had left his original homestead because of the lack of water and gone in search of land more diversified.

His land was situated on the present site of the village and he started a store for the homesteaders in his log cabin in 1902. His groceries came from Wetaskiwin and were brought out at the cost of 40¢ per hundredweight.

## STORE AND MILL

His contact in Wetaskiwin was a merchant by the name of Gould. This first store later had a mill added to it and in 1903 he built a larger store as the mill had now squeezed him out of his small home. To this second store he was able to add a post office and became the first postmaster in the area. A section of the cement slab that was placed under the mill still lays in the ground at the site under the trees behind his old residence, having been discovered by his nephew, A. LaBelle, when he was a small boy.

A third store was erected in 1907 with the final store being erected in 1945 after a fire which completely destroyed the third store. The Mohlers, father and sons, brought out the lumber from Wetaskiwin for the building.

The lack of transportation made it very impractical for the farmers to secure fuel, but soon evidences of coal cropped up in the district and farmers received their first lift.

## COAL

The coal was first discovered on the Richard Foss homestead, but A. Fergstad, whose homestead was 2 miles or so from the Bosmans' homestead did the first developing. He instituted himself as the first coal king in the district, starting in about 1905 and he mined 6 thousand tons of coal and disposed

of it to the farmers who brought their wagons and sleighs to the mouth of the mine to be filled.

## MINE STRIKE

Mining was on a small scale but it did serve to show the quality and extent of the coal areas and in the course of time the district was to hear and benefit much from the Round Hill coal. Wagons came from as far away as Lloydminster for coal, and some of them had to sit at the mine shaft overnight when an early mine strike shut down the mine for two days.

## SETTLED BY WOMAN

The story of the mine strike is vividly recalled by present resident Mrs. Quail (daughter of A. Fergstad), who had a large part in getting the mine under operation again. Her father had gone away for several days when the miners asked for a ten cent a day raise in pay. The mine foreman who handled all the receipts and payments out of a little change bag in his pocket refused to listen to the demands of the men. They went on strike, and in spite of the pleas of Miss Fergstad, he remained adamant. Wagons were forced to stay overnight. Finally on the next day Miss Fergstad put a little more pressure on the foreman and he threw up his hands, handed her the money and she got things underway once more.

## SYNDICATE

Coal mining was still on a small scale so Emil Bosmans went out to see what he could do in the way of capital. He was very confident in the mining venture and managed to interest some Camrose business men in the venture. In June of 1910 a trip was made to the Fergstad mine. Mr. Fergstad had done his work with as little timbering as possible and consequently the caving in on the surface showed just where the coal had been extracted.

Following this tour of inspection there was formed the Round Hill Collieries with a capitalization of \$500,000 and the purchase of 1,280 acres on which the mining rights were secured. For the first winter the operation of the mine was taken over by Bosmans who spent considerable money sinking a shaft and installing machinery that would enable the mine to have an output of 100 tons of coal a day.

## SHIPPED COAL ON C.N.R.

The demand for coal was at once apparent and Bosmans shipped coal over the C.N.R. line to Saskatchewan points and supplied several localities in Eastern Alberta as well. In 1912 the mine suffered a bad fire which destroyed the tipple and many buildings.

The mine, however, was put back into operation, and D. Twomey of Camrose headed the company as president.

# Hamlet Grew About Bosmans' Store

 OSMAN'S had ranned for several years before starting his store, which became the "place east" from Wetaskiwin. He had an immense territory to serv east and customers came to his store from 100 miles away.

In 1904, when the C.N.R. main-line was built, he contracted to supply twenty-five thousand bushels of oats to the railroad contractors. This was a large undertaking, as it meant buying practically all the oats in the country and delivering to a point 72 miles from Round Hill.

## SUPPLY SOURCE CLOSER

In 1904, when the C.P.R. line was built into Camrose the supply source for the Bosmans' store was brought that much closer. Progress was thus being made in this area as another dream was realized.

When the C.N.R. surveyed their branch line from Vegreville to Calgary, the survey passed within a stone's throw of the store, and jubilation ran high. In 1910 the road was built, and with the surveying of a townsite, there followed a quickening of the business pulse.

It was then that development began on a large scale. On every hand, farmers increased their flocks and herds, and cultivated more land. Instead of the one business place which for so many years had marked Round Hill, many others sprang up in the wake of the railway. Bosmans donated 7 acres of land so that the railroad station would be located nearby, and the townsite was purchased from part of his quarter of land.

William Ross put up a machinery warehouse and livery stable, and J. R. Gilchrist started a real estate business. G. E. Robinson was in charge of the second general store. M. W. Lyle was in charge of the Pigeon Lake lumber yards.

## EARLY TOOTH-PULLER

Other business places were: Richard Foss's blacksmith shop (Mr. Foss came to the country equipped with a pair of teeth-pullers and did all the early dentistry work that required pulling . . . it is said that he was the only man strong enough to hold a person's head with one arm and extract a tooth with the other hand); J. Aaagard started a grist mill, and Mrs. Johnson ran a boarding house; Frank Mohler was an early grain buyer in the district.

Farmers got together in 1912 and organized the Round Hill Mercantile Company, which was managed by William Ross. The site of the building was near the station, and the directors of the

## BOSMANS' STORE AT ROUND HILL



Large building was the second store built, with the mill taking over the original building, part of which can be seen to the extreme right.

company were O. Hougestol, Ross, Law, Franson and Holm. By this time, Ross had disposed of his livery and feed mill and his machinery agency to go into the mercantile business.

Bosmans also erected a meat market which was later taken over by the Royal Bank branch in 1918. Later it again became a meat market.

In 1922 Bosmans tired of handling cream and shipping it to Edmonton, and he encouraged the Burns Company to take over. The creamery was under the management of Mr. Glover, and was built in the spring of '22. By the fall of that year, over 80,000 pounds of butter were turned out. The N. A. D. P. took over from the Burns Company about 1943.

In 1912, Frank Mohler, the grain buyer, built an elevator in Round Hill, which at the present time is the No. 2 elevator of the "Pool".

A man by the name of McLeod was the first station agent, and he used the Ross warehouse until the building was erected.

The town and district were soon well supplied with schools and churches. There was soon established the Mennonite, Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic churches, while Anglican and Methodist services were held in the district. Four schools contributed to the needs of the district, and a Round Hill central school in the hamlet was built in 1911. The first school was Grand Forks, with a Mr. Gordon as teacher, who also conducted United Church services in the school.

Dr. Stewart, of Camrose, served the early district in a medical way, and held clinics in Bosmans' store every few months. Here was done the early tonsil-snipping and other professional attentions. The 'flu epidemic of 1918 hit the hamlet hard, and for about five weeks the school was closed and used as a hospital.

## Churches Off To An Early Start

Among the early settlers that came to the district shortly after 1900 were Anton Naherniak, Mike Homeniuk, A. Holawatchuk, Joe Wade and the Mohler family.

The first Polish settlers arrived in the latter part of summer in 1901 and settled upon homesteads bordering on Lake Demay. Six families settled in 1901 and by 1903 the number had risen to 43 families. In the first group came Frank Mack, Michael and Joseph Budynski, Stanley Banack, George Rakowski and Frank Gerski.

Until 1903 the spiritual needs of these settlers were administered by Father Bellevaire of Duhamel, and Father Olazewski, a Polish missionary. In 1904 these 43 families started the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, and upon completion in 1905 the church was re-named St. Stanislaus after the Bishop of Crakow. Funds for construction were obtained from parish contributions and from donations by people in the Eastern United States. Building proceeded under the direction of Father Paul Kalawy who took an active interest in Round Hill community.

### FATHER KALAWY

Father Kalaway, from whom the school and district took its name, acted on the first school board when the Kalaway school was moved to a new site three miles south of Round Hill. The first baptism was in July 1902, when Frances Budynski, daughter of Joe Budynski, was baptized.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Mack, who came to the parish in 1901, is still living with her son in Toronto. She is now 108 years old. Ninety-two-year-old

Mrs. Adelbert Marek, who came in 1902 is living at present with her daughter, Mrs. A. Perka, on the land her husband homesteaded.

Building started in the late spring of 1903 for the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Transfiguration, with the parish organized the previous year. Father S. Dydyk visited the colony in 1902 and remained as the first priest. The first church was a log building, and in 1924 a new church was started and blessed two years later. A memorial was built in 1942 to the pioneers.

The first hall was built in 1938 and moved to Round Hill ten years later. The first wedding solemnized in the church was in 1903 when John Soloninka and Maria Stefura were wed. The first baptism took place the previous year, and the child was Ludvic Swerda.

The first settlers of Lutheran denomination settled in '01 and '02, and were ministered to by the Rev. Eersvend Anderson. From this minister's efforts to organize a congregation, the Trondhjem parish came into being in 1906. First members included the families of Martin Solhaug, Nils and Andrew Foss, Iver and Albert Bruce, Jens Sr., and Jens Jr. Bruce, Nils Matheson, Ludvig Pederson and Mrs. Guru Knutsen.

Services were first held in the homes, later in the Standard and Meldahl schoolhouses in the Norwegian language. The congregation finally built a church in 1923 and it was completed in 1929. In February of 1954 the church was moved to the hamlet of Round Hill. The first baby baptized in the congregation was George Edward Bruce in 1908.

# Grist Mill Produced 25 Barrels Daily

An early boon to settlers was the establishment of the Frank Mack grist mill, on the northeast shore of Lake Demay, in 1909. Here the farmers hauled their wheat to be ground into flour, and into feed for their livestock.

## MOVED TO ROUND HILL

Mack operated this mill about 1920, when his son, Louis, in partnership with Richard Foss, moved the three-storey log building into Round Hill. Situated then about four miles from Round Hill, the mill was moved intact on skids into the hamlet with the aid of Foss's Rumley oil pull and Kalawsky's steamer.

Once in Round Hill and in operation, the mill turned out 25 barrels of flour a day. They could produce first and second grade flour, and bran, cream of wheat and middlings as well. The next three years, the two owners operated on a 24-hour schedule, for the mill boasted a 32-volt light plant which supplied lights for the three floors.

One busy night, while operating at full steam, the governor belt flew off and things went "haywire". The steamer didn't

waste time gaining speed, throwing the light generator belt off and plunging the place into darkness. The engineer was in the basement at the time, and as soon as the building started to vibrate, he sprouted wings and left.

## HECTIC NIGHT

A customer asleep on his sacks of grain was awakened hastily, and departed. Foss was on the second floor when all went dark, and he jumped down to the first floor and managed to close the throttle on the steamer. As he passed the huge flywheel, the 40-inch wooden drive-wheel fell apart from the speed, narrowly missing him.

After about three years' operation, the milling equipment was sold to persons in Daysland, and Mr. Kalawsky purchased the building, dismantling it, and took it to his farm. Several millstones remained in Round Hill, and for a number of years two of them served as a roller on the school tennis courts. They later found their way into the pit, over which they had turned, and it remained a fitting resting place for the mechanical pioneers.

did in Iowa. He had the right idea but the machine was too weak. We bought one, but broke it the first day out. I made another one, three times as strong as that one, and broke that one in a couple of days. I then went to work and made another that we could not break, and we were away. We first tried horses but they were too flighty and easily scared with the brush falling around them, so I switched back to oxen. I put eight oxen on the cutter and we could cut almost any of the trees, but it was slow even at that. We had to go round and round the brush and pile it out after each round. We usually cut the brush a year ahead and plowed a fire-guard around it. The next summer we would set fire to it on a dry windy day, and then pile and burn what was left.

## FIRST BRUSH BREAKERS

The first brush breakers we could buy were practically useless. They were strong enough, but the beams were too low and often in the mornings when the grass was damp it would collect on the colter and throw the plow out of the ground. The same thing happened in the brush. An odd root would pull out, out would go the plow, and you would have to spend hours sometimes chopping that root to pieces to clear the beam.

After trying to break with this kind of a plow I decided to make one that I thought would work. I raised the beam up to give us about a 30-inch clearance, put two wagon wheels on in front for a truck and eight oxen on in front of the plow, and we were away. We tried horses but they were too flighty in the water. We broke through sloughs and all, the water often being nearly three feet deep.

It was in later years when more land was broken up and the water seemed to drain away more, that we switched to tractors and even then we seldom went a day without being mired in the mud. I think it was about 1920 or '21 that I had my first Rumley oil-pull.

For the first few years we operated the only elevator in Ohaton, then the farmers organized a company and built a small elevator on the site the Alberta Pacific now stands on. This was only operated a few years by the farmers when they sold out to the N. Bawlf Grain Company, who in later years sold out to the Alberta Pacific.

## BREAKING WAS A MAJOR CHORE



James Mohler's first brush cutter that operated successfully.

## Brushing and Breaking

Brushing and breaking in the early days could both break your back and your heart. My first experience in brushing was at the ranch. My older brother, Bill, was going to Wetaskiwin for supplies and told James Courtney and myself that he would like to break a certain piece of land the next summer, suggesting that while he was gone and we were sitting around resting, we could cut the patches of brush. Not knowing anything about how it should be cut, we cut it off on top of the snow, which was about two feet deep. This was worse than if it had not been cut at all, and had to be cut again in the spring, this time close to the ground.

Cutting brush with the axe was too slow to get you anywhere, so Gus Roose, living northeast of Ohaton, invented a brush cutter about

that time, fashioned after our old corn cutters. Mr. and Mrs. Roose came from the same place as we



Breaking plow and steamer on E. Broen's homestead in 1916.

# WILLOWDALE LIKENESS . . .

The school districts of Hartland, Willowdale, Shelburne and Likeness, and the history of the early settlers is lacking in much information for this Jubilee issue. The insufficient amount of information received made it impossible to draw a settlement pattern. However the few bits of history gleaned will be presented here for the sake of oldtimers of the district who may be able to fill in the gaps.

The Willowdale district was organized at a U.F.A. meeting in 1926 when a name had to be chosen for a Community Hall that was moved from Round Hill to its present location. Among the first early settlers in this area were the families of C. G. Blades, J. Toule and T. Wedgewood. The community was actually established in 1913 in the spring of the year when Toule, Blades and Wedgewood located on land. Geo. Law and W. G. Knight were also settlers.

## FIRST SERVICES

The first church services were held in the homes of T. Redshaw, J. Toule and C. G. Blades by Rev. Carter. Later services were held in the Willowdale Hall.

Some of the other Willowdale settlers named were the Joe Scarbar family in about 1900, Andrew and Will McWhirter, Tom Jevne, K. K. Quail, Fred Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Bruce and son, John, Iver Bruce, Jens Bruce, Sr., George and Albert Bruce and the Martin Solhaug family.

## HARTLAND SCHOOL

The Hartland School was built in 1906 and named by T. Brager after a town in South Dakota. Original members of the board were Oppen, Spasby, Olson and Birkness. Mostad was the nearest post office for this district.

The Likeness district, named after Likeness in Norway, got underway about 1902. Early settlers in this area were Louis Twomey, Tom and Sam Vold, Lars Knudson, Archie Brown, Canute and Sivert Olson, Lars Jensen, Ludvig Haviland, Pete Iverson,

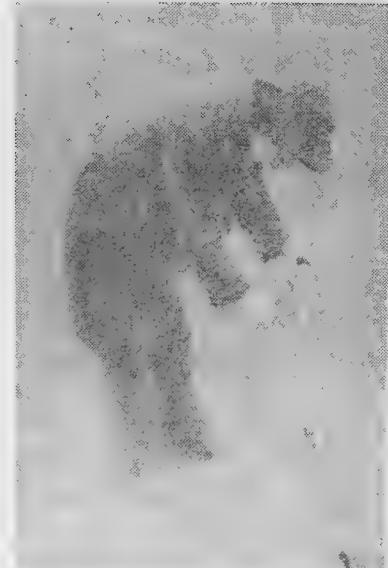
Nels and Lars Norman, Canute Vellsing, etc. The Likeness School District No. 1449 was formed before 1905 and was built by Pete Paulson. When the larger school units were formed the school went into the Holden Unit. Earling post office was the closest center when the Tom Brown family came in 1900.

When Ingeborg Bruce came with her husband Jens to the area east and north of Camrose called Shelburne in 1903, the country was sparsely settled. Water for their livestock was carried two miles from Salt Lake.

Sivert and Martha Olson who settled on the southwest quarter of 28-47-17 built their home beside an Indian trail. They had a camping site just east of the Olstad buildings, but although they liked to look in the windows they never molested the family.

The district of Equity, which later became Ryley in 1908 had an association with this area through the development of the post office.

An article on Equity will be found elsewhere in this paper on Equity post office



Pastor Halvorsen, first minister of the Likeness Church, used to depend on the homestead stakes to guide him through the district on his circuit. This picture was taken one time he lost his bearings. He travelled in circles for many hours before this friendly stake told him that he was 12 miles from a settlement.

bors and got their signatures. In due time the Post Office was established there and Wesley Thirsk was appointed the first postmaster. They called the post office Equity which was later changed to Ryley.

The town of Equity became quite a shopping centre before the railroad came in. Two other general stores were built in that town by Leonard Hay and Pete Kjosnes. A lumber yard did business from that location and the Anderson Bros. built a livery and feed stable.

When the townsite of Ryley was opened up for settlement, Pete Kjosnes used his big steam threshing engine and moved all the buildings to the new townsite.

The social activities were not neglected in these early days. The entertainments, home talent plays and sports days were all well patronized, especially the football games with the rival team of Tofield.



The farmstead of Mr. and Mrs. Jens Bruce of the Willowdale district, who came in 1903. Mrs. Bruce first carried water from Salt Lake.

# PALMER EARLING •••

## *Earling P.O. at Bratrud Home*



T. O. Bratrud's homestead shack in 1904 on a Sunday afternoon following church services.

For the group of settlers who settled south of Ryley and east of Round Hill, later named the Earling district, the earliest post office was that of Northern, which was later renamed Earling. In 1904, a postal point was established in this district at the home of Harold O. Bratrud, which took the name of Earling. The Bratrud's came to the district in 1902, and as this was three years before the birth of Camrose, supplies were of a necessity hauled through the prairie area of Stoney Creek from Wetaskiwin. The homestead was located about ten miles south of Ryley at the Bratrud home and the first provincial election was held at the Earling post office. This point remained open until 1918.

### CIRCUS MAN HOMESTEADS

After leaving his native Oslo, Hans Huseby had made the rounds of Ringling Brothers circus, and coach driving for a slave owner before coming to Alberta in 1903 and taking up homestead land in the Earling district on the northwest of 30-47-16. Muskrat, coyote, mink and weasel pelts were cash income and a man wasn't worth his salt who couldn't skin 60 'rats an hour, or one a minute, to lighten the load.

The first few years Mr. Huseby recalls the snow lay in the brush around the sloughs all year round. Peder Forre and Hans had a hair-raising experience one day when they had a run-away with a team of oxen on the return trip from the Earling post office and store. The oxen finally ran themselves into a corner and the men chopped them out of the brush thicket, and picked up the scattered mail and supplies.

### CREW OF THRESHERS

Coming up with Huseby from North Dakota were Chris Afseth, Jim Courtney, George Platke and Chris Gaalaas. Chris was fond of threshing and his heart was in his big steam engine. All the men but Chris Gaalaas settled in this area, having shipped their machinery and stock to Alberta in 1903.

per day. The run began with stock threshing and ended up with stack threshing.

### SPINNING AT 83

Peder Andreas Pederson and his wife were 1905 settlers on the southeast of 12-47-17 near what is now known as the Gladstone district. Mrs. Pederson has many recollections of Indian visitors. One day an Indian lady came and purchased a pieced quilt top from Mrs. Pederson for five dollars to give her daughter as a wedding gift.

The Gladstone country school was built near their country home. After her husband died in 1915 she carried on the farm until the '20's when her children were old enough to take over. Now at 83 years of age and still residing on the home farm she still keeps busy spinning, making quilts and looking after the house.

### GO TO TOWN

The Molstad country post office about four miles north west of the present town of Bawlf was the early postal and supply centre for the Lasse and Elef Lassesen family who emigrated from the Dakotas in 1905 with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peder Lassesen. Elef recalls what a treat it was when Camrose came into being and the family could take the team and "go into town."

The senior Mr. Lassesen loved music and for many years played the organ at the Hegre Lutheran Church about a mile west of his place. Wood carving was one of his main hobbies, for which he drew his own designs.

The Palmer Earling district received a big boost in 1914 when out by the C.P.R. colonization department 65 families of settlers were brought from the Western States. These families went to the Earling, Bawlf and Holden districts and filled up the settling of that area.



An early homestead shack taken in '07 with Ole Haugen seated on a barrel with his initials and address printed on it. The lean-to was a dug-out for his team of ponies. Note the fish net hanging on the wall. In the foreground is a chunk of ice just dumped out of the barrel. Located on the Lasse Lassesen quarter, north of Bawlf.



The old store in Shelburne district run by Thos. Brager, taken in 1903 by Alfred Olson.

## Brager Store In New Parkland District

The first settlers coming into the district straight east of the city of Camrose shortly after 1900, were completely isolated from the railroad until the steel came from Wetaskiwin to the budding townsite in 1905.

Ole Grasdahl and his family arrived in 1901 and rented a quarter-section from Pete Scafse, south of Camrose, where they lived their first year. In the meantime Ole had filed on the southwest of 6-47-18 and had started to break the sod.

After they moved to their home-stead shack in 1902, it became a frequent stopping place for new families coming in. Mrs. Grasdahl made a deal with Andrew Rudd and John Swanson whereby she baked twelve sacks of bread for them in return for a heifer calf.

Their home was a gathering place for church services and on June 1st, 1903, a community meeting at their home organized the school board. The Parkland L.A. was also formed there.

### CARPENTER

Ole Grasdahl helped many settlers build their homes, including August and Herman Nyback, offering them shelter till their house was finished. He also assisted Tom Brager to build his store, worked on the Hampton School which was located on his homestead.

Ole also operated a livery barn in Edberg for several years.

### MAIL ROUTES

The first mail carrier in the district was Andrew Shervin. He brought the mail from Skafse post office where Van Petten was the postmaster to the Lake Demay post office where Neally Nelson operated. Later when Sparling arose he picked up the mail from Harry Foucar. He also had a route from Skafse to Kopernick and Coral Lake. Shervin had come out with the Oppen family and was married to one of the daughters.

J. August Nyback first saw this area in 1900 when he filed on his land and went back to bring out his family from Minnesota. The Herman Nyback family returned with them and all stayed at Duhamel while homes were being erected.

At Duhamel Mrs. August Nyback's four year old son lost him-

self in the bush. An Indian search party soon found him. The mother's respect and liking for the Indians rose again shortly afterwards when a band of Indians came along and put out a prairie fire threatening the farm buildings one day when the menfolk were away.

### WALK BAREFOOT TO DANCE

Son Sven, recalls how the mountie "Blue Smith" used to come riding by. As soon as the children saw him coming they would run to tell their dad that there was going to be a dance, as the mountie was coming to ask him to play. Their house was quite a dancing centre. People walked barefoot for miles to dance, carrying their shoes on their back.

In 1901 Gilbert Oppen came up from the Dakotas and filed on the northeast of 6-47-18. He returned for his family and built his log house. It was here that Gilbert, his brother Andrew and his mother, Mrs. Guri Oppen moved in the summer of '02. Mrs. Gilbert Oppen and children, Carl, Oscar, Oluf and Clara, and the Ole Oppen family came out to the Oppen homestead. All the families, 17 persons in all, lived in the 2 room house for 3 weeks until houses were built.

### SLEPT ON CORRECTION LINE

In the fall of 1902, Albert Nelson of Lake Preston, South Dakota, took a car of livestock and household goods belonging to a new settler by the name of Ole Oppen up to Wetaskiwin, and ended up filing a homestead for himself in this Parkland district. He brought his family up the same year and bought the building which housed the Brager store, moving it to his land. Haley Nelson recalls how he spent one night sleeping in the middle of the present correction

line when they were moving this house and the outfit broke down.

Albert and his eldest son, Haley freighted goods from Wetaskiwin in 1904 and 1905 to the R. B. Price store in Sparling.

In 1910 Haley Nelson and Stanley (no relation) formed a partnership and started drilling wells. They drilled two wells in Camrose to supply the town with water when they began putting in the water-works.

Bachelor Andrew Rudd, who had filed in 1901 returned to Dakota for his effects and brought back with him a young lad by the name of John Swanson. John couldn't file in the States because of his age, but in Canada the age limit was three years younger.

John's pocket jingled with 85¢ when he landed so he worked for his friend Andrew to earn a few dollars to improve upon his land.

### DINNER GONG

He recalls planting potatoes with 1 horses, and swarms of mosquitoes descended in such hordes that he couldn't see the teams in front of him. Andrew threw cloths over the animals to protect them from the invasion. John says that often when he was out breaking he would stop to hammer the point of the plowshare straight after hitting a



The Tom Bragers, who built the first and only store in the Parkland district, which was a community gathering place and was used as a schoolroom as well. The Brager Store was moved to Oha-ton when the townsite opened.

rock, and the mosquitoes would hear the sound and react to it as if it were a dinner gong. He vows they came from miles around to feast on him!

#### TRAIN STARTS FIRE

One night while he and his brother Charlie were carpentering at Ohaton a train early in the morning awoke them. They jumped out of bed to find a good-sized prairie fire descending on the hamlet, ignited by sparks from the locomotive. In 1908 John married Hannah Shervin.

When Thomas Brager's family came from Oregon to join him, they passed through the town of Frank a few hours before the rockslide of April 1903 covered the little mining town.

The family travelled eight miles straight east of Stoney Creek to the Andrew Rudd farm where a home was awaiting them. Here they set up a little store to supply settlers with the necessary staples. The nearest store then was Duhamel or Wetaskiwin.

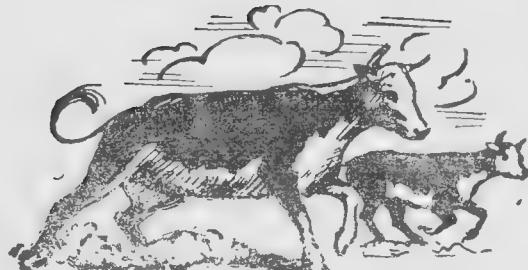
#### STORE AND SCHOOL

The building also housed the first school as studies were held upstairs over the store for a few months that summer. Mrs. Alma Hardy acted as the teacher.

That fall Thomas Brager sold his building to Albert Nelson and built another on his own homestead 2 miles east, and a mile north. Neighbors freighted store goods in from Wetaskiwin in order to pay for supplies, while others who had cows, traded butter for groceries.

Mrs. Brager recalls how Mrs. Henry Hanson would walk 6 miles pushing a baby carriage to bring in her butter to trade.

An Indian woman arrived in the store one day to trade skunk hides for a pail of syrup. But before she would accept the goods she dipped



her fingers in the syrup to sample it. Needless to say Mrs. Brager was relieved when it met with approval.

#### EARLING TRAIL

Pastor Kjous of Wetaskiwin, stayed at the Brager home while ministering in the district. The main trail from the west passed by the store and settlers bound for the Earling district often stopped off for food and lodging.

In 1905 Brager moved his store to Ohaton to a building the Swanson's had built. Two years later he sold his store and returned to the farm. The Bragers celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last year and Mr. Brager passed away two days later.

John Walfred "Chicago" Johnson who had known John L. Sullivan when he was boxing champ, came in 1903 and stayed in the New Salem district for a year before going to his homestead south of Lake Demay. His children, Agnes (Mrs. Haley Nelson) and Elmer, attended Lake Demay School in 1904 when it opened. Miss Signe Spokkeli was the first teacher. Later he went to the Peace River country where he was then known as "Camrose" Johnson!

#### RED TAPE

The pioneers of the Parkland district got tangled up in red tape in 1903 when they began negotiations with the government in Regina for a school. As existing records of the district show, these

people with their "up-and-at-'em" zeal failed to follow the exact procedure and were refused their application to borrow money by debt. Letter by letter these records tell a story of a patient but determined struggle which won out in the end.

Mrs. Hardy who had taught in the Brager store did not have a certificate and the government refused the board permission to pay her salary out of tax money. The hard-pressed citizens dipped down into their pockets to pay her.

In the meantime plans went ahead for the erection of Hampton School No. 843 on the southwest quarter of 6-47-18. The struggle for financial aid continued. By December the board felt all regulations had been complied with to raise money and sent their forms away. The reply came as a bombshell. With the perfect timing seemingly achieved only by governments, the school ordinance had been changed ten days previous. To quote from a letter, "As your by-law dated on the 8th instant is drawn up under the old form, it will be necessary for the board to take proceedings over again." So with a few remarks on the vagaries of government and possibility on the ancestry of the lawmakers, the school board, now well versed in government red tape, went ahead and filled in the new forms. In March, 1904 clearance came through and the school opened in August with William E. Pye as the first schoolmaster.



Home of Ole Grasdahl, taken at a school meeting, June 1, 1903. Left to right: Martin and Selmer Grasdahl, Mrs. Ole Grasdahl, Mary, Ole Grasdahl, John Swanson, Herman Nyback, Gilbert Oppen, Andrew Rudd, Andrew Shervin, Albert Knutson, Albert Hardy and August Nyback are shown standing before the very early structure.

# CHAPTER FOUR

WHEREIN IS SHOWN the development of the hub of all activity with the coming of Camrose and the railway lines which, by 1915, veered in all directions from the town. The first Twenty-five years of Camrose is herein chronicled and brief sketched of the pioneers who built themselves into the town, and are still a part of its continued growth.

With fifty years of progress tucked behind the new City of Camrose, it is most interesting and enlightening to read the early history of this area.

The seven years following incorporation, in 1907, were perhaps the most concentrated up-surge recorded in the half century history of Camrose. For it was in these years that all the foundations for the industrial, commercial and residential expansions were laid.

## EIGHT RAILWAY LINES

Those first seven years saw a tremendous amount of railway construction work take place. The era of railway development began with the construction of the C.P.R. line east and west extending through Winnipeg. This was followed by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Railway lines through Camrose to Calgary. The C.N.R. then built a 45-mile cut-off from Camrose to Edmonton, and in the spring of 1913 commenced work on the line southeast of Camrose heading for Regina to link up the capitals of the three prairie provinces.

Another hundred miles of this line was built in the following year. The Camrose Electoral District as it was then known, encompassed 47 townships, and was traversed by 300 miles of railway lines, constructed at a cost of \$20,000.00 per mile, and a total construction cost of six million dollars.

## 12 TRAINS DAILY

In the midsummer of 1914, twelve passenger trains passed through Camrose daily. The basis of Camrose development in those days was directly linked with the railways. The wholesale business included the large warehouses of the Alexander Grocery Company and the Camrose Grocery Company, each controlled by one of the largest grocery concerns on the continent. Georgenson & Company and G. F. and J. Galt companies erected the warehouses in the summer of 1910 and these buildings are still in use today. The Camrose Grocery is now the warehouse of MacDonald's Con-

solidated, and the Alexander Grocery is now the premises of the Alberta Seed Growers.

## COAL OUTPUT 60,000 TONS

In 1907 only 5,000 tons of coal were mined yearly, while in 1914 the annual output had reached Alberta and Saskatchewan by over 60,000 tons, shipped all over way of the three transcontinental railway lines radiating from the town. Saskatchewan coal at this time retailed for eight to ten dollars a ton, and Camrose coal was selling for three to four dollars a ton.

The electric light and power plant, constructed at a cost of \$30,000.00 in 1911 was situated on the north bank of the Mirror Lake. An auxiliary dynamo and engine supplied the demand for continuous night and day service.

## PROVINCIAL PHONE SYSTEM

The erection by the Provincial Government of a telephone exchange at Camrose, made the town a district headquarters for long-distance lines. Telephones then reached into all settled sections of Alberta, with Camrose geared to handle one-quarter of the Alberta system, both maintenance and operation. In 1914 there were 904 telephone subscribers — 301 in the towns, and 603 among the farmers in this constituency. Between 1907 and 1914, 734 miles of telephone pole lines, with 1,109 miles of wire, were constructed.

Practically no road construction was in effect in 1907, but seven years later the constituency boasted 400 miles of good roads which contained 80 new bridges and innumerable culverts. Farming was becoming more profitable, with land prices doubled, beef prices up, and the value of the grain crop had reached a million dollars annually. Eighty thousand acres of land was under cultivation, and the value of livestock had increased to well over two and a half million dollars by 1914.

In 1907, the rush of settlement was just taking place. Seven years later, with one million acres of arable land available in the constituency which encompassed a 40-mile radius around Camrose,

1,600 farms of 160 acres each boasted a farm population of 8,000 residents.

## COLLEGE STARTED IN 1912

Educationally, Camrose laid its foundations early, for in addition to Public and High School facilities the Camrose Lutheran College was established in 1910 and incorporated by a special Act of the Province of Alberta in the Spring of 1913. The fact that Camrose was the centre of a large Norwegian settlement, gave the town preference over several suggested sites in Western Canada. The college grounds comprised 30 acres, had an enrollment of 100 students, 60 of whom were lodged in the building. The college curriculum comprised an academic course leading to university matriculation, a business course, and special courses in theology and music.

## NORMAL SCHOOL

When the demand for school teachers became so great in the province that the Normal School at Calgary could not meet the requirements, the Department of Education found it necessary to build a new Normal School. By reason of the railway facilities, Camrose was chosen as the site of the \$250,000 building, completed in the fall of 1914. This building, now known as Rosehaven, was beautifully landscaped, as is still in evidence on a greater scale today.

No time was lost in having the Normal classes open in temporary quarters until such time as the stately building was completed. The coming of the Normal School established Camrose as a centre of education, and solidified and contributed to the steady and permanent development of educational facilities.

## TAX RATE

Although the tax rate was lower than many towns and several cities, the town stuck to the single tax system. In addition to the usual assets, the town owned the water and sewer system, light and power plant, public market, exhibition grounds and buildings, municipal hospital, gravel pit and

industrial site property; making the town a municipal ownership town. Even with expansion, the town did not exercise more than half its borrowing power under its total assessment.

In addition to the wholesale businesses, other industrial outlets financed by local capital included a brick kiln which made use of the buff and red burning shales that were distributed extensively around Camrose. The first opera house was constructed with Camrose bricks.

#### TANNERY

The Camrose Tannery was the largest plant of its kind in the province, furnishing a market for local hides that were made into robes and leather for the farmers. Outside leather was also shipped in as production gained impetus. The Camrose Harness and Collar Company opened a factory, purchasing leather from the local tannery. Machinery was purchased by Francois Adam for a boot and shoe factory as well.

Business-wise, the seven-year

initial growth period of the infant town saw three banks, seven churches, schools, college and Normal School, three railway depots, a local newspaper (*The Camrose Canadian*), two hotels, all actively operating. Population-wise, the town had grown from a yearling with 412 persons to over the 2,000 mark, seven years later. At that time the Main Street boasted cement sidewalks and cluster lights — with the same present wide street we enjoy fifty years later!

## Adventure in Promotion

A promotion scheme was initiated by a group of ambitious Camrose business men, and the party started from Camrose on February 24th, 1912, in a specially equipped railway passenger coach for a trip to Eastern Canada and points in the States. The trip was made at a cost of \$10,000.00. The party consisted of Frank P. Layton, Mayor of Camrose; Dennis Twomey, ex-Mayor; George P. Smith, M.P.P., Editor of *The Camrose Canadian*; Jabez Harris, President of the Board of Trade; Frank L. Farley, member of the Camrose Council; J. Watson Young, ex-Alderman; M. A.

Maxwell, Town Engineer; Camille David, merchant; J. Sherman Fox, successful and representa-

tive farmer.

In every town that the train stopped the boomers received the best of treatment, being entertained by clubs, boards of trade, and various societies which seek to boost the welfare of cities.



## Camrose 'FIRSTS'

Although the history of Camrose was not all made in the early days, perhaps a good deal of the most colorful history was written in the first few years of settlement.

The numerous versions of the Ole Bakken legend are known by most of the city's senior citizens. But established in fact is the situation of his homestead, the S.W. quarter of Sec. 2, Twp. 47, Rge. 20, W. 4th, with Stoney Creek running through the southwest corner, and on his farm a City in the making.

The townsite of Sparling had a modest beginning of eight blocks which increased in the real estate boom, until 1911, when the townsite was a surveyed area of 2 1/2 miles north and south, and 3 miles east and west.

The FIRST merchant was Duncan Sampson, who came from Little Current on the Manitoulin Island, Ontario. In May of 1904, Mr. Sampson erected a small store with a dwelling upstairs, on the road allowance on the west side of the townsite. Later, when the townsite was thrown open for sale, Mr. Sampson had the FIRST pick of the lots, purchasing Lot 4, Block 2, and moved his building to that location. The FIRST mail came by coach from Wetaskiwin, and reposed in a soap box in the Sampson store until a regular post office was opened. Henry Foucar was the FIRST postmaster in the regular office.

The FIRST lumber company, the Stoney Creek Lumber Company, was owned by Francois

Adam. K. O. Eggen had the FIRST harness shop; and John Gallagher, foreman for Phalen & Shirley, the FIRST office.

The FIRST store building, erected on the east side of the FIRST block of Main Street, was built by Andrew Carruthers, who had been operating a store and "stopping place" a mile north of the townsite. This structure was followed in close succession by a hardware store, erected by Hiram Burgar and Geo. Wallace; W. G. Duggan and Dennis Twomey bought Harry Foucar's hardware business; George Keeble and David Dufferin McLaren built a fancy goods and jeweler's store; Humphrey L. Higgs built a drug store; Francois Adam had an insurance office.

Dr. G. G. Stewart, the FIRST doctor, began medical practice in 1904, coming over from Bittern Lake. The FIRST newspaper, *The Camrose Mail*, was published by Captain T. Berville Thomas, with the FIRST issue on July 27, 1906.

FIRST Justice of the Peace was Francois Adam.

#### FIRST TRAIN—THE BLUE FLEA

By June of 1905, the railway grade had been completed. A bridge had been built over Stoney Creek, and the rails laid as far as Sparling. A mixed train came out in the afternoon, three times a week, turned on the "Y" and returned to Wetaskiwin. In the late fall of 1906, track had been laid to Daysland, and a daily passenger service on a local train, dubbed "The Blue Flea Special", was inaugurated be-

tween Wetaskiwin and Daysland.

Municipal organization began in May, 1905, when citizens of Sparling hamlet made application to the government of the North West Territories at Regina (autonomy not having been granted to the Province of Alberta until the fall of 1905) for incorporation as a village. Application was granted, and F. P. Layton was appointed the FIRST returning officer for the election of a village overseer, this being the only executive of the village at that time. The name of the returning officer was the only name nominated, so F. P. Layton declared himself elected as FIRST overseer by a very large majority.

On January 16, 1907, the village was raised to the dignity and status of a town, with Thomas Dahl elected as the FIRST mayor by acclamation.

The FIRST Town Council comprised the following: Abraham Code, George P. Smith, R. B. Price, Dennis Twomey, Albert Foucar and Edward R. Hjelm.

F. P. Layton was the FIRST fire chief of the volunteer fire department organized in 1907.

Dr. G. G. Stewart was the FIRST chairman of the FIRST school board, organized in June of 1905, and Miss Signe E. Spokkel (Mrs. I. Z. Hills) was engaged as the FIRST teacher in the FIRST school, situated in the Presbyterian Church building.

The FIRST church service held in Sparling was conducted by Rev. Thomas Phillips, a Methodist minister located at Dried Meat Lake. The FIRST church building to be erected was the Lutheran Church.

# Canada's Jubilee City

Incorporated as a City on its 50th. Anniversary,  
January 1st., 1955.

## CITY STATUS

Since the Jubilee Year for Alberta is coincident with the City of Camrose attaining its city status, it shall be attempted to present some of the reasons for the City's development. In order to grow, an urban community must provide the services a growing community finds need for. In this respect Camrose has certainly fulfilled its destiny.

The Camrose district was settled and developed primarily as a mixed farming enterprise. Agriculture is still the backbone of the district's general economy. Statistically, the Camrose district is the most densely populated agricultural area of Alberta. This indicates a high degree of potential production. While grains are a vital factor in the farm economy and wheat is always grown for the ready cash market, the feed grains to develop the livestock industry are a major factor. Beef cattle of the choicest varieties and quality are turned off the farms and the feed lots with clock-like regularity. Many farmers are consistent hog raisers, and hogs are, of course, a real factor in the farm economy of any district. Dairying has not, as yet, developed to the extent to which an outside observer might expect. The district is just outside the borders of the vast "milkshed" feeding into the City of Edmonton. But those who are going into this branch of agriculture in the Camrose district are establishing herds with breeding stock of the very highest standards, with the view to high production and ultimate development of the dairy industry.

Poultry raising has not been the factor here that many agricultural authorities would like; but the Camrose district has been a consistent shipper of Western Canada's high grade turkeys. It is not unusual for the Camrose district to ship out 200,000 lbs. of dressed turkeys in a single season.

## COAL

Coal production has been a factor here, but not to the same extent as in the larger mining centres. With shallow coal seams near the surface, as well as deep seams at the 400 foot level, the early mines supplied the local coal demands, with considerable shipment to outside markets from the Round Hill mines. Then during World War II the new idea of strip mining was introduced, made possible by the development of the giant earth moving machines. The big strip mine at Camrose has a capacity of 100,000 tons per season, and when the war demand was at its peak the mine was producing to full capacity. The new strip mine at Hastings Coulee, with its major outlet through the C. N. R. at Camrose, has a production capacity of two

thousand tons a day, and is Western Canada's most outstanding example of this modern method of mining.

## HYDRO ELECTRIC

The challenge to better living and to ultimate industrial expansion is provided by ample hydro electric power, through Calgary Power, which corporation purchased the Camrose municipally owned electric plant in 1908, as well as the Camrose waterworks system. Calgary Power maintains a central distribution station at Camrose as well as district administrative offices covering the territory as far east as Macklin, Sask.

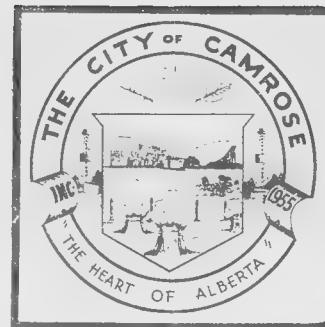
## NATURAL GAS

The advent of natural gas has changed the fuel picture in Camrose, as it has done in many other cities and towns in Alberta. Camrose was hooked up to gas in 1945 and 1946, through Northwestern Utilities, the supply coming in from the Viking-Kinsella field, leading off from the huge gas mains feeding into the City of Edmonton, mid-way between Viking and Edmonton. Now it has been discovered that there is lots of gas in the oil wells around Camrose and what this will mean to the future is a matter for speculation.

## THEN CAME OIL!

It was in February 1947 that the first oil strike was made in the Leduc field. It took a few weeks before the impact was fully realized, even at Leduc, let alone Edmonton and Calgary. People began to wonder here at Camrose what the prospects might be. By 1948 the district was swarming with geophysical crews making their technical surface surveys of the underground stratas. Then a drill test was made southwest of the present City, and the two dry holes gave the optimists a jolt. In 1950 a drilling rig was set up on the Flint property in the Duhamel - New Norway district. This well was the first marked success in the Camrose district field. Later, drilling on this structure demonstrated that the range of production was very limited, but where production was obtained it was on a very profitable scale. Oil is obtained here from the D2 and D3 zones, under very high pressure.

It was in October 1950 that the big strike was made in the North Armenta field, which subsequently encouraged drilling all the way south-eastward, down through Camrose proper, and on past till now wells are pumping eight miles below the City. These are shallow wells, production comes out of the Viking Sands. The oil is "sweet", commanding a price premium. The wells are from 3300 to 3500 feet deep.



Their average potential is probably 50 barrels a day, and under conservation methods, are expected to produce from 30 to 50 years. Their output kept the Camrose field in third place volume of production for all of Alberta for many months, until the recent heavy production was obtained from the new Pembina field.

Two pipelines carry oil from the Camrose fields into Edmonton, the one line coming down into the Armenta field from Joseph's Lake, and the second line reaching down below Stettler and gathering from all the intervening wells.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars quickly fell into the hands of landowners who held oil rights on their lands, and others benefitted to a lesser degree from payments made for surface rights. Millions of dollars were spent in drilling enterprises. Camrose as a town was called upon to house and service hundreds of technicians and their assistants. This gave a real upsurge to the local business economy.

Now that the oil industry has become stabilized, with drilling being continued on a very modest scale, there remains in Camrose only the operational staffs, the administration staffs, and the service personnel, but even still the volume of business brought to the City of Camrose through the medium of oil production and field development is of great economic importance to the community.

Since the material was compiled for this book two oil wells have been drilled to successful production within the actual City limits of Camrose.

## THE SOURCES OF CIVIC PRIDE IN CAMROSE AS A CITY

Camrose gives its citizens and its shopping patrons many things to be proud of. The City of Camrose is an exceptional example of a Top Flight Shopping Centre. The Camrose merchants are really on their toes. Nowhere can you find stores superior to those to be found in Camrose. The stores themselves are in keeping with the modern methods of commercial displays to be found in the larger cities . . . in departmental drygoods, in ladies' wear, in men's wear, in boots and shoes, the exceptional development in grocery and food markets, in meat markets and locker storage, in furniture, in the new broader developments in hardware, in jewellery, in elec-

trical appliances, in lumber and building materials, in drug stores and their sundries, in novelty stores, in stationery . . . in fact in practically every line a buying community of some fifty thousand people could ask for. All the leading automobile manufacturers are well represented, as are all the foremost manufacturers of farm machinery. Plumbers, tinsmiths, electricians, and general contractors are well established. There are cleaning establishments for clothing, laundry services, and every need can be readily met.

#### THE NEW SMITH CLINIC

The Smith Clinic, with eight Doctors, headed by the two sons of the late Dr. P. F. Smith, Dr. "Mac" and Dr. "Hamp.", is the most modern institution of its kind to be found in Western Canada outside the largest cities. There are Dentists, Chiropractors, Lawyers and Accountants to round out the professional services.

#### ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL A MOST MODERN INSTITUTION

St. Mary's Hospital, with a capacity for 100 patients, operated by the Sisters of Providence, is a fine modern, fire-proof establishment, equipped in comparison with the largest city institutions.

#### ROSEHAVEN, A MODERN EXPERIMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

The former Normal School, now translated into a home for the incapable aged, is the City's biggest payroll institution. This modern experiment in social services is being watched by all Canada, and internationally as well. It cares for more than 400 patients and is now in the process of expansion.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church maintains its own home for the aged, with a capacity of 85, and this new institution is planning for expansion.

Alert real estate agents, insurance brokers and travel agents keep Camrose ever in the public eye; while a coterie of life insurance underwriters make Camrose their business headquarters.

Camrose and district is served by branches of three of the largest chartered banks in Canada, all with fine offices; and the Provincial Government operates a Treasury Branch office here.

#### CAMROSE HAS FINE SCHOOLS

The Camrose Schools are the finest in the entire province. With the exception of a part of the High School, the buildings are all practically new. The High School and Junior High has 22 rooms and auditorium. The new John Russell School has 8 rooms, the New Sparling School has 6 rooms. The new Sifton School, for the rural Division, has 10 rooms, while the two auxiliary schools have 6 rooms. All are excellently equipped and staffed by well qualified and experienced teachers.

#### WELL ORGANIZED CHURCHES

The spiritual needs of the community within the City of Camrose and its surrounding

areas are taken care of by a number of well organized churches. With a predominant Scandinavian background, it is not unusual that the Lutheran Churches, through its various Synods, should be predominant. The Norwegian Evangelical Lutherans are building a fine new church in Camrose this summer to accommodate their expanding congregations. The Grace Lutheran Church is just completing the erection of a fine new edifice. The Roman Catholic Church has long been well organized in Camrose. Dean P. F. Harrington has been at the head of the Camrose Catholic Church since 1923, or a period of 32 years. The United Church has an overflowing congregation for its quaint Old World architecture building. This building, with its beautiful stained glass windows, is quite a tourist attraction. There are other branches of the Lutheran Church, the Baptists, the Salvation Army, the Pentecostal Assembly, the Church of God, and so on.

Camrose is also a centre of religious education. The Evangelical Lutheran Church has maintained the Camrose Lutheran College here for forty-three years. It enrolls High School and Commercial pupils and its enrollment is now averaging about 150. Plans are being laid to develop this College into a Junior College in affiliation with the University of Alberta. These plans necessitate an extensive and progressive building program.

The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, starting from a small beginning, is now developing into an outstanding Bible School for the training of Church leaders. Its new buildings bespeak its progress.

The Alberta Bible Institute, an institution sponsored by the Church of God, an international organization, also conducts a very successful Bible School in Camrose. Its affiliated Tabernacle draws large summer religious gatherings to Camrose.

We probably have missed some very important services, for there are the barbers, the beauty parlors, the shoe repair men, the blacksmiths, the service station men, and a host of others.

There are those who provide the hotel services and the motels and cabins. There are the two Theatres that bring modern entertainment, plus the Drive-Ins which operate throughout the warm summer weather.

There are greenhouses and flower shops.

The City Post Office, the Municipal District centre, the East Central Alberta Health Unit, the Petroleum Conservation offices, are also among the services that should be recorded.

The Camrose Agricultural Society has developed one of the most modern exhibition plants in all Alberta, with its Livestock Sales Pavilion, Drill Hall for exhibit privileges, Grandstand, Race Track and numerous other facilities. This will probably be utilized in the Civil Defence project as a Rescue Centre should Edmonton ever require the ser-

ous evacuation of war attacks.

The Alberta Government Telephones has established a dial phone centre in Camrose, one of the largest in the province. Camrose long distance tolls rank fifth within the province.

#### AN AGGRESSIVE NEWSPAPER

An institution that has contributed to the development of the Camrose community is The Camrose Canadian, a progressive and aggressive publication established by Hon. George P. Smith, later going into the hands of Fred Slight, and after his early death was successfully published by his widow, Mrs. Ila Slight. In 1947 the present publishers purchased the business and it has more than kept pace with the growth of the City. The publishers are R. L. King, Ken Patridge and Chas. W. A. MacLean. The paper has in recent years brought several awards to Camrose, including the Best All Round Paper in Alberta for one year and the Best Editorial Page in the Canada-wide competition in 1953, for papers with circulation exceeding 3,000.

#### POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

Politics have always been a vital factor of interest in the lives of Camrose citizens. First, there was indomitable George P. Smith, the first member of the Provincial Legislature, and rightly named one of the City's founders. He used his influence as a cabinet minister to get the Normal School established here. George P. went down with the Liberal Government in 1921, with Hon. Verner Smith winning in the U.F.A. ticket and being given a cabinet position as Minister of Railways and Telephones. Chester Ronning entered the political picture here in a prominent manner under the C.C.F. banner. He was the popular Principal of the Camrose Lutheran College. It is a singular note of pride on the part of the Camrose people that he is now Canada's Ambassador to Norway. He was born in China and speaks that language freely, and was brought into the Department of External Affairs by the Liberal Government at Ottawa to serve as Secretary to the Ambassador to China, a post he held till after the Communists took over. When the Social Credit party was swept into office in 1935 Camrose was represented by W. N. Chant, who was immediately given the post of Minister of Agriculture. Chant differed with Premier Aberhart and was given the gate. He was followed in office by Chester L. Sayers of Meeting Creek, who has held office since that time, being re-elected at the recent provincial elections.

In federal politics, Camrose was not so fortunate. The City enjoyed direct representation during the term in which Dr. H. H. W. Beyerstein was in office. The constituency boundaries were chopped up before the last general federal election, with Camrose left out on the edge of a larger area dominated by old Battle River constituency, with Vermilion at its centre.

## PART TWO -- The First Twenty-Five Years

### Hamlet of Stoney Creek 1904

MAY.—Duncan Sampson drives into townsite on a load of lumber with Ole Bakken, spending the first night with John Spokkeli south of town. The next morning early he erects his small store with an upstairs dwelling on the road allowance on the west side of the townsite.

K. O. Eggen opens a harness shop; Adam's Stoney Creek Lumber Company and the real estate office of John Paulson opens near Sampson's store.

#### Early Summer

Phalen & Shirley, contractors, start out from Wetaskiwin to grade the first 25 miles of C.P.R. line east to Winnipeg.

John Gallagher, foreman, locates office near Sampson's store.

OCT.—Eight blocks of townsite surveyed in spring, thrown open for sale.

Duncan Sampson buys lot 4, block 2, for \$200.00 — first lot sold. Moves his store to main street, followed by other businesses.

OCT. 30.—First church service held by Rev. Thomas Phillips, Methodist minister at Stoney Creek, in the carpenter's shack of Charles Asp. Crowded to door with men—one lone woman, Mrs. Foucar.

#### Fall and Winter

Building off to brisk start in Sparling. Two hotels commence building — Windsor, owned by Camille and P. A. Miquelon, and the Arlington, owned by Ole Bakken.

A. Tretvold builds "Stopping House".

First store building erected on the east side of the first block of Main Street by Andrew Carruthers, who had operated a

stopping and a store a mile north of the townsite. Carruthers later sold to G. W. Wells.

Second structure was erected by Hiram Burgar and Geo. Wallace as a hardware.

General Store of R. Bud Price goes up.

Hardware and Tinsmith Shop of Harry Foucar.

Farm Implement Business of W. G. (Billy) Duggan.

Rushton Lumber, Grain and Implement Company.

Dr. G. G. Stewart comes to town from Bittern Lake.

Arrangements made with Joe Cowan, who drove a mail coach from Wetaskiwin to Heather Brae, to leave the mail for Stoney Creek settlers in a soap box in Sampson's store. In a few months time a regular post office was opened, with Harry Foucar in charge.

### Village of Sparling 1905

Reverend Phillips, Methodist Minister, moves to town.

Dr. W. V. Lamb moves his medical practice from Duhamel.

V. Matejka's purchase Arlington Hotel.

R. B. Price joined in business by George and Norman Smith—business changed to Smith Bros. & Price.

W. G. Duggan and Dennis Twomey buy Harry Foucar's hardware.

George Keeble and David Dufferin McLaren build a fancy goods and jewellers store.

Humphrey Higgs builds a drug store; Francois Adam builds an insurance office.

Joe Cowan builds a livery barn. Charlie Peterson builds one . . . and dances to the fiddling of Bill McWhirter, highlight the winter.

Summer, the steel is completed to Sparling, and a train service inaugurated, which ran from Camrose to Wetaskiwin, Lacombe, Stettler and back.

MAY.—Municipal organization begins—citizens of Sparling hamlet make application to government of Northwest Territories at Regina for incorporation as a village. Application granted, and F. P. Layton, R.O., forced to declare himself elected as Overseer for want of nominations.

Overseer borrows \$100 under provisions of Village Act the next morning to begin public works. Deep furrows are plowed on each side of main street to carry off the slough water from the townsite into Stoney Creek.

Francois Adam appointed Justice of the Peace.

JUNE.—Election of the first board of trustees of School District No. 1315, held in Presbyterian Church building. Dr. G. G. Stewart, Duncan Sampson and John Kubbernus elected to board of trustees.

JULY.—July 31st the first school is opened in the Presbyterian Church building, with Miss Signe E. Spokkeli in charge of twenty pupils. Miss Spokkeli re-

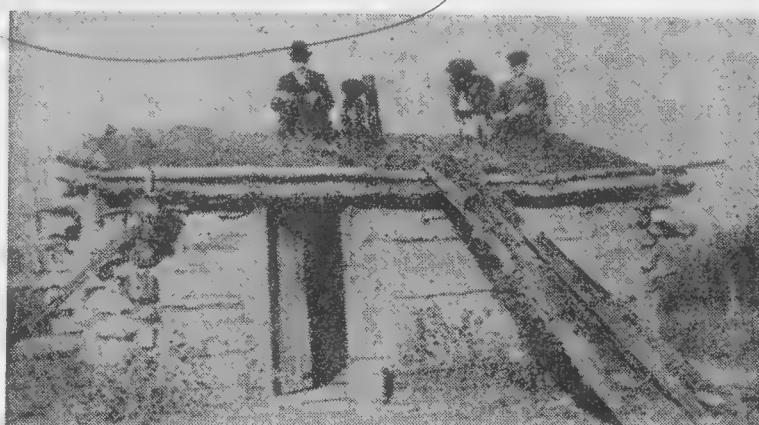
signs in December, and is succeeded by R. D. Fleming.

Methodist Church is dedicated.

James Kennedy Burgess opens law practice.

Jacob Elness delivers water from his farm south of town to settlers.

Homesteaders adjoining townsite are Jacob Elness, Ole Spie-dahl, Chas. G. Erickson, John Kubbernus, Lars Larson, John E. Spokkeli, Trone Myers, John B Larson, William and Al. Knox.



This is the Lars Larson homestead shack north-east of the present CPR station. Taken in 1907 within the townsite of Camrose, the shack was surrounded with wheat stubble. Larson (left) at that time was in the harness business and later on sold his interests and started a tire vulcanizing concern with the advent of the automobile. Man on the right is W. L. Landkamer, now of Edmonton.

# Town of Camrose

## 1906

MAY — Smith Brothers build store on lots 11 and 12 in block 2.

School outgrows church building. Second teacher is engaged, and school is moved to Lutheran Church building.

JUNE — Contract for four-room brick school let to W. E. Allen.

JULY — Camrose Mail begins publication on July 27th by Captain T. Berville Thomas.

### Fall

Application is made to the Provincial Government for incorporation as a town on the recommendation of Overseer Thomas

Dahl; the proclamation appointed R. D. Fleming as Returning Officer for the first municipal election.

Track has been laid to Daysland, and a daily passenger service on the local train, "Blue Flea Special", is inaugurated between Wetaskiwin and Daysland.

Burgar and Wallace treble their store accommodation with two new stores on the east side of Main Street.

Presbyterian Church commences erection of building.

Frank Pike rides over from Wetaskiwin to establish Merchants' Bank.

New Businesses include: Scandinavian General Store, by Chas.

Peterson; Camrose Photograph Gallery, by C. L. Langbell; The Otteson Company, C.O.D. Store; Eugene Hyman takes over Red Cross Drug Store; Camrose Millinery, by M. Hoyme; Golden Rose Creamery, with Inglis Bros., also handles Massey Harris Machinery; Blacksmith Shop of Haugen & Asp; J. S. Wright, livery and feed stable; B. L. Dyer, tonsorial parlor; Thompson & Dahl, wholesale liquor store; H. C. Vickery, merchant tailor; Dr. W. A. Shea, dentist; J. F. Cannif, real estate; H. E. Teeple, auctioneer—(as advertised in the first issue of The Camrose Mail).

Jacob Langbell builds Langbell Hotel (Heatherbrae).

## 1907

JAN.—January 16th, first municipal election held; Thomas Dahl elected mayor; councillors Abraham Code, Geo. Smith, R. B. Price, Edward Hjelm.

First council meeting held in hall over Smith Bros. store immediately after election. R. D. Fleming appointed first secretary treasurer; Dr. Lamb as medical officer. Liquor licenses set.

MARCH.—Lots purchased and contract let for building of town and fire hall. Fire engine purchased from Waterous for \$3,820.

MAY.—Coupon No. 1, debenture 1 of the Village of Camrose paid for \$160.

Cemetery north of town purchased for \$70. T. C. Battram appointed engineer. Lauritz Larson appointed pound keeper.

MAY 24th — New School officially opened.

JUNE.—Fair Grounds property purchased from W. J. McNamara for \$4,000. Business men sign bank note for price.

Smith Brothers sell to J. Watson and J. Adair Young.

Fire Brigade formed, with F. P. Layton chief.

JULY.—"Blue" Smith appointed town constable.

AUG.—Engine room addition built on Fire Hall. Town Bell erected, Sidney Lambert appointed bell-ringer; Geo. Keeble appointed assessor.

SEPT. — John W. Russell, of Olds, becomes principal of Camrose School, and high school classes are begun.

DEC.—Geo. Hallett appointed first nightwatchman.

## FIRST BANKER



Frank Pike came from Wetaskiwin about 1906, riding horseback with money in the saddlebags, to start the first bank — Merchants. The bank building was not finished until May, 1907, so Mr. and Mrs. Pike boarded across the street and obtained their meals at Frank Hamilton's.

In 1906, Mr. Pike visited Mrs. Rushton and he often recalled that it was so extremely cold then that he could not get out for about a week, and even the train was frozen.

Frank Farley had often told the story about driving into town on a democrat, looking for a place to settle. Frank Pike was sitting watching them put the railroad across the creek and told him that this was going to be the finest place in Alberta . . . so he decided to stay.

## 1908

JAN. 3rd — First monies paid over to School Board of taxes collected from school district by town.

FEB.—F. P. Layton appointed auditor of town accounts. Band stand erected.

MAY.—Town grader purchased and grading begun on streets. G. W. Wells appointed assessor.

JUNE 13th. — Grant made to Fire Brigade Band, \$100.

JULY. — Three lots purchased from Ed. Thompson for the market square.

AUG. 1st—Grant made to Board of Trade, \$250.

SEPT 4th.—Murdock McKenzie appointed general utilities man to succeed Lauritz Larson. Fence and Sheds built on market square.

NOV. 18th.—A. N. Loggin appointed Night Watchman. R. D. Fleming as R.O.

DEC. 3rd.—The Camrose Canadian begins publishing under Geo. Peter Smith.

The Camrose Canadian is being published in Edmonton and mailed in Camrose. In the meantime, offices have been set up in the office building of F. L. Farley, near the Post Office.

The Canadian Club has just been completed.

Four townsmen, G. W. Wells, F. P. Layton, Captain Thomas and E. Hjelm, will move into their new residences within two weeks.

# 1908

Francois Adam has built a large addition to his home, with a fine billiard room; Dennis Twomey has made a start on his new house, and Langbell brothers are rushing work on a two-storey building on Main Street to be used as a photograph gallery.

The Camrose Lumber Company is commencing the construction of the Camrose Opera House.

Volume One, Number One of The Camrose Canadian, under the direction of George Peter Smith was published on Thursday, Dec. 3, 1908. Local businessmen stage mock parliament. Premier Corneille was president and Premier of the Council, with Frank Pike leading the government opposition.

Twenty-seven old-timers, with more than twelve years' residence in Camrose and district, got together for a picture. Featured were T. True, E. Thompson, L. O. Bjaaland, O. Movold, M. Stein, T. Roholdt, C. O. Quist, J. Elnes, M. M. McKenzie, J. Hough, J. Moe, H. S. Nomeland, Z. H. Hills, Francois Adam, G. H. Keeble, A. Carruthers, L. L. Hartman, A. McWhirter, Mrs. J. Moe, Mrs. E. Thompson, Mrs. J. Spokeli, Mrs. L. O. Bjaaland, Mrs. J. Hough, Mrs. T. Grue, Mrs. O. Movold, John Spokeli and Ovel Ovelsen.

Camrose Canadian purchases plant of the Camrose Mail and will begin publishing in Camrose. Date of change-over, Feb.

Tannery company plans extension, doubling capacity of plant.

Molson's and Trader's Bank open branches in Camrose.

Public meeting appoint board to plan hospital.

C.N.R. and G.T.P. railway companies select station sites—G.T.P. will locate west of Catholic Church on property of F. Adam.

Rooms above E. Thompson & Company chosen as temporary hospital quarters—ten rooms in building to put to use. Captain Thomas offers his house for \$30 a month and site is changed.

Camrose Agricultural Society stages first annual fair, and reports a huge success.

Board of Trade advertises for up-to-date publicity man, offering \$1,000.00 a year salary . . . town vetos, but allows the group \$500.00 for expenses.

First train over the C.P.R. from Saskatoon passes through Camrose on October 28th.

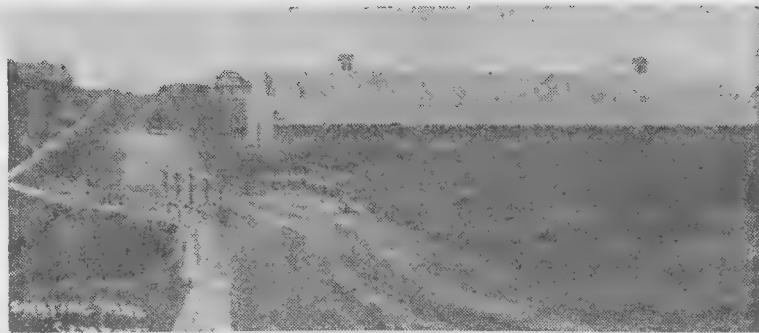
Grand Trunk Pacific start laying rail (November).

Georgesons Company establish Camrose Branch for wholesale groceries.

F. & J. Galts open warehouse in Camrose.

Grand Trunk Pacific steel reaches Camrose on Nov. 30th.

C.P.R. build spur to wholesale houses.



The skating rink that was built and operated by Peter Scramstad down by the old bridge.

# 1909

## ANOTHER CAMROSE RAILROAD LINE TO BE BUILT

Canadian Club purchases second Billiard Table . . . financial report shows that the building is all paid for.

The Camrose Mail ceases publication.

Board of Trade appoints publicity committee to draw up publicity material for Camrose.

The government travelling stock show opens up in Camrose.

Fire Brigade holds annual meeting, electing the following officers: Chief, Chas. Cameron; Asst Chief, J. S. Wright; Captain, Harry Foucar; Cart 1, hose reel, G. W. Wells; No. 2 hose reel, J. A. Younge; Capt. hook and ladder, W. G. Duggan; Capt. chemical, Adolph Aleckson; Secretary-Treasurer, E. L. Thomas.

Messrs. Larson & Code open another store, carrying a complete line of staple and fancy groceries.

Rutherford government announces that the Strathcona, Camrose and Calgary railway lines will be built this year.

George Peter Smith chosen as Liberal candidate for the Camrose constituency.

Mayor Dennis Twomey goes to Toronto, called by the illness of his wife.

Baseball enthusiasts meet and form club, electing Francois Adam as honorary president, Frank Pike as honorary vice-president, George P. Smith as president, J. W. Younge as vice-president, Dr. W. V. Lamb as secretary-treasurer, and Ed. Dahl as manager.

Camrose ladies meet to form Hospital Aid; Mrs. Francois Adam was elected honorary president and Mrs. J. K. Burgess as president.

Mayor Twomey resigns, and A. Code is elected to fill the position.

United Lutheran Church of America accepts proposition of town to build Scandinavian college.

Grand Trunk Pacific railroad coming into Camrose . . . lots in town change hands at a rapid pace.

Citizens discuss electric lights.

# 1910

## ALBERTA PREMIER RIDES FIRST G.T.P. TO CAMROSE

First G.T.P. train arrives on Saturday, Feb. 5th, a special train made up of engine No. 75, the sleeper "Ireland", a coach, caboose and water car. Premier Rutherford, Att'y-General C. W. Cross, Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, ride train, which was the first one to run on the first track built under the provincial government guarantee. It was the premier's first visit to Camrose.

Camrose Brick Company was organized, with C. G. Corneille as president.

Canadian Northern track reaches Camrose on April 23rd, and continues on to Calgary.

Camrose syndicate commences operations at Round Hill Mines.

Contract let for public hospital.

Foundations laid for new power house for town.

Town erects industrial hall and stock sheds at fair grounds.

A. G. Barnes circus comes to town, complete with three rings.

G.T.P. lays steel across Duhamel bridge.

Camrose Fire Brigade band reorganized under Bandmaster A. Quello and R. Newton. Bandsmen include T. Spencer, Johnson, Scotvold, Maland, Newton, Wiser, Park, Tronnes, Englebretson, Schulstad, Carroll, Scheie, Scramstead, Boyd, and F. and P. Stowe. Chas. Cameron was manager.

Francois Adam sells lumber yard to Globe Lumber Company of Revelstoke.

Camrose Harness and Saddlery opens for business under P. McCabe and T. Manning.

Twenty-one new businesses built, and seventy-nine residences in year.

Beaver Lumber builds retail yards.

Town Council fixes first water-rates for the citizens at 18 cents per k.w.h.



The newly erected power house as seen at its completion in 1911, after construction had begun in 1910. Steam was generated with coal from the Stony Creek Collieries. Equipped with a piercing whistle it announced the start and ending of the day's work in the town, as well as sounding the alarm whenever a fire threatened the centre.

## 1911

### POWER PLANT SET INTO OPERATION

Power plant set into operation on January 6th, for a cost just under \$25,000.00.

Frank Dunham appointed as Publicity Commissioner and secretary of Board of Trade. M. A. Maxwell appointed by council as waterworks engineer.

Hiram Burgar buys out the hardware firm of Burgar, Davison & Co.

Grand Trunk Pacific passenger line commences on June 12th.

Camrose concrete company opens up cement block plant

Telephones move to new office.

Camrose Tannery expands to add shoe factory equipment.

Scandinavian Lutheran College opens October 2nd under Professor John P. Tandberg, and three other teachers.

All night electrical service established.

Three thousand dollar curling and skating rink is built.

Frank P. Layton begins second term as mayor.

Tri-weekly service started on the C.N.R.

Mail service on through trains between Winnipeg Camrose and Edmonton inaugurated.

Dominion government buys lots on Main Street for post office

Construction of C.N.R. cut-off to Strathcona commenced.

Hoyme & Company start manufacture of their "Trep" paint.

## 1912

### CAMROSE CAR TRAIN HEADS FOR ONTARIO

Public reception marks opening of new school addition.

Board of Trade plans to send Camrose railroad car on Ontario

Fram Ski Club, organized in 1911, build ski slide on the farm of Ed. Thompson, south of Cam-

ed to the staff.

Important feature of council program for the year includes the hiring of a building inspector.

F. P. Layton remodels offices for new council chambers.

Annual Camrose Seed Fair enjoys good attendance.

Ski scaffold blows down two weeks prior to tournament, but is repaired in time for the event.

Financial difficulties of hospital compel authorities to request payment in advance. Among the rules and regulations laid down are: No friends of the patients are allowed in the operating room during operations; use of tobacco strictly prohibited, as is spitting on the floors and walls.

Camrose gets \$100,000 for new normal school building, enough to assure the letting of the building contract.

Government commence building on new two-storey brick building to house the local telephone system.

Landscape artist and gardener arrives to beautify C.P.R. grounds.

Officials find that Municipal Hospital is failing to cope with present requirements, arrangements made to float building debentures.

Messrs. Peacock and Wade open fox farm for breeding purposes.

Rev. J. R. Lavik replaces Rev. Tandberg as College president.

New Camrose Lutheran College building dedicated on June 26th.

Rev. A. D. Richard leaves pastorate of Methodist Church.

Vernon Fruit Company builds warehouse on spur line.

Fourteen graduates receive diplomas from first graduation class at Camrose Lutheran College.

Sixteen teachers to staff second term at the Normal School.

Spicer Coal Mine opens in Dinant, producing a lignite coal from a forty-foot shaft.

New business and commercial buildings this year include L. E. Martin, second-hand store; C.N.R. freight sheds; Chas. Eltrick, public garage; Robt. Drysdale, store; Jno. Adkins, livery; Lars Larson, steam laundry; J. B. Larson, feed mill; Vernon Fruit Company, wholesale fruit; Cottage School; J. F. Fowler, blacksmith shop. Work started on Normal building and telephone building.

Stover Bros. establish Dairy, business being conducted by Mr. McClary.

Camrose Natural Gas Company formed, and makes arrangements to drill well. Site for gas well chosen near civic power plant.

Camrose loses services of John W. Russell, who becomes school inspector.

"Home to Norway" association for Western Canada formed in Camrose. A reduced rate for a trip to the homeland is planned on the occasion of the centennial of Norway's freedom.

Town Council considers securing of paid fire-fighters, and advertises for a chief, assistant, and six reel men.

Natural gas burns in Camrose for first time—580-foot well gives big flow of 50 feet per day.

# 1914

## FIRST POULTRY SHOW HELD BY ASSOCIATION

First Camrose Poultry show draws large number of entries; president Fred Pratt of the Camrose District Poultry and Pet Stock Association welcomed out-of-town breeders.

Windsor Hotel transformed by \$4,000 renovation.

First large fire in Camrose takes toll of \$20,000 worth of property, main damage being to the stores of George Wells and A. Carruthers.

Camrose rink collapses due to heavy snow on roof—\$5,000 loss.

Alexander Grocery Company takes over business of Georgeson & Company.

Camrose wins championship of the Alberta High School Debating League, defeating Lethbridge at the finals held in Edmonton.

Camrose assessment reaches quarter million dollar mark.

Council lets the contract for water and sewer extensions, and passes approval for the renovation of the fire hall.

Fifty Norwegians from Camrose and district leave on "Home To Norway" expedition... Board of Trade holds farewell reception.

Harry Foucar relieved of duties as postmaster, after nine years' service, and replaced by R. L. Rushton.

Imperial Oil build large warehouse north of C.P.R.

Sports Day pony race down Main Street ends in fatality—young Duhamel lad killed. Also end of pony races.

Sixty Scandinavian editors touring the country visit Camrose.

Camrose Turf Club puts on excellent exhibition at Fair.

D. Sutherland elected mayor; C. J. Bailey, D. Sampson and H. Pulleyblank elected to serve on the hospital board.

W. T. Shipley of Neepawa, Manitoba, appointed to the position of principal of the Camrose High School, rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Ferguson.



Built in 1907 by Peter Scramstad, these buildings were situated north of the Langbell Hotel (Heatherbrae). Peter also built a skating rink near the old bridge across Stony Creek. He served for 22 years as caretaker of the Camrose Normal School.

# 1915

## TWO LOCAL CHURCHES DISCUSS AMALGAMATION

Canadian subscription contest offers two pianos and a Ford car as prizes.

Twelve local boys enlist in Edmonton regiment—town sponsors hearty send-off.

Auditors' report shows town's finances in excellent shape—water and electricity rate cut again.

Local Methodist and Presbyterian churches take first steps towards amalgamation.

A. Maland of Camrose comes second in provincial ski meet; A. Haugen of Edmonton took first. Other winners were O. Eivenson and A. J. Ofrim of Camrose.

Town fire department installs gong to be operated from the telephone central as a fire alarm.

F. P. Layton appointed as District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts for the Camrose district, introducing a new movement into this section of Alberta. A meeting is held to organize the local association.

Harris Dairy Products sells out to Prairie Farmers Dairy Company.

Camrose Canadian installs typesetting machine called Linotype, to replace hand setting. First linotype-set paper published on March 25th.

Camrose farmers petition for two rural mail routes... government representative meets with farmers... routes to run north and north-east, with a service every other day.

Town undertakes to inaugurate a Market Day along with a town beautification scheme.

The Conservative nominating convention at Viking put Frank P. Layton up as candidate.

Eighty-six children absent from school in measles epidemic—Dr. Lamb closes public schools for the duration of the sickness.

Tax rate for the year 1915 set at 32 mills to the dollar.

Agricultural Society to sponsor Standing Grain Field competi-

tion, to stimulate interest in the growing of first class seed grain.

Sheriff closes the Windsor Hotel—action was taken by owners of property for back rent. Proprietor leaves town.

C.N.R. tri-weekly passenger service from Edmonton to Camrose is inaugurated.

Calgary Brewing Company purchase the Windsor Hotel at Bailiff's sale—S. T. Severson will manage the hotel for the purchasers.

Four new appointments made to the Normal Practice School.

E. V. Keri and Chas. McDonald buy out the R. B. Price store.

Owens and Johnson open their fourth business in Camrose.

Dr. Lamb leaves with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps for England.

New Normal School building is opened by Hon. J. R. Boyle, Minister of Education.

P. Pallesen and associate locate creamery in town—building to be located on Bakken Street. The business will manufacture butter and cheese.

# 1916

## C.N.R. LINE BUILDS SOUTH-EAST OF CAMROSE

One hundred boys in uniform—33 men in Camrose 151st platoon.

Camrose Central Creamery officially opens, P. Pallesen, prop.

Telephone exchange completed—present 500 lines, ultimate capacity 1000 lines.

New Norway fire—Alberta Farmers' co-operative elevator, 20,000 bushels of wheat burned.

Death of J. L. Becker, Dray and Livery business, also delivered mail from stations.

Ranch deal closed—Bowes Bros., Merton and Harold, purchase 1200 acre ranch owned by Thos. Evans 6 miles south of Camrose, also rent 300 acres, came from Ingersoll, Ontario.

Death of Richard Pallister, a member of town council, sponsored road and street improvement program.

First Norman School Athletic Field Day.

New Norway fire, Pioneer elevator and 20,000 bushels of grain destroyed.

Sixteen Scandinavians enlist in 223rd Scandinavian battalion, join Battalion in Winnipeg.

Road improvements, boulevarding, trees—town residents assist with expenses.

Automobile Club formed in June. Officers and road captains elected. Aim to secure all farmers as members.

Axel Skovgaard, noted Danish violinist delights audience on initial appearance.

Property changes hands. Lutheran property sold to Roman Catholic parish.

Camille David buys a section ranch, 1-48-20, 6 miles north of Camrose.

Development along C.N.R. line southeast of Camrose. Eight new townsites including Kelsey, Rosalind, Campbellton, Heisler.

Rosalind — S. Pritchard bought purebred Aberdeen Angus cows from Brandon for his Glenrose Stock Farm.

Camrose Constituency Motor Club held first picnic August 11, at August Miller's summer resort.

Prof. M. R. Odegaard, a member of faculty of Camrose Lutheran College since 1911 left in August for a similar position in Spokane, Washington.

Death of W. H. Harper, August 27th. Hap operated a confectionery business for three years on Camrose Main Street.

Rev. Mr. Dredge, newly-induced minister in Presbyterian Church. He and Mrs. Dredge welcomed at public reception.

A large grain warehouse is being erected near the C.N.R. station by the Columbia Grain Company of Winnipeg.

A meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church to form a Camrose Ministerial Association, including ministers of all Camrose churches.

The first flower show was held in the old Telephone Exchange Building with a splendid showing of flowers.

Camrose bids farewell to the boys in the 151st Battalion and the citizens of the town presented gifts.

City Transfer and Dray Business changed hands, being taken over by Alex Leitch from J. R. Rogers who operated the business for several years.

Francoeur Bros. make record sales of Moody and Desjardine threshing machines.

## 1917

### CAMROSE SEES FIRST CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM

Death of Rev. John McDougall, D.D. Mrs. Womacks, Camrose West was a niece.

Hardware changes hands. First known as Burgar, Davidson and Company and later as Hiram Burgar, Hardware, was sold to Taylor and Morris of Edmonton.

Three Camrose skiers represent

## MAIN STREET — 1917



Showing the Camrose Wine and Spirits Company, and H. W. Storey Hardware. The little building to the left of the Pool Room still stands, occupied by the Camrose Sports Shop and Elna Sewing Center. Note the snappy car models.

the Fram Ski Club at Revelstoke. Adolph Maland, Ole Eivenson and Elmer Ofrim. Eivenson second in seven mile race, third in jump. Maland second in jump, won the longest standing jump.

Farewell smoker for Ex-Mayor Sytherland who was going to Vancouver.

Armena registers the death of K. E. Lyseng, oldest citizen of the district. He was born in 1824 and came to the district in 1901.

Women's Institute formed in the Camrose district, organized by Miss Mary McIsaac, Superintendent of Alberta Institutes.

George Sjolie was first in Class A, Camrose Jr. Ski jump, Irving Larson headed Class B.

Mrs. Axel Nordstrom passed away, had lived in the Camrose district 10 years.

Arlington Hotel opens to public under new management, having been closed for several months—Sabourin and Bouchard of Saskatchewan new managers.

Farmer's co-operative company was organized and plans were made towards a co-operative elevator.

Martin Heisler, father-in-law of Joe Gau, passed away at the age of 70 years.

George P. Smith was nominated as Liberal candidate in 1917 election. Frank Layton was chosen as Conservative candidate.

D. Sampson, first merchant in Camrose, sells business to D. H. M. Little and takes up farming 3 miles west of Camrose.

Rev. and Mrs. Francis come to United Church from Lethbridge.

Co-operative Elevator Co. bought Pioneer elevator.

First Chautauqua program in Camrose was July 6-12 in 1917. Was well attended. Sudden storm wrecked the Chautauqua tent.

Frank L. Snathers won Military Medal.

Robert Drysdale who operated a book store here for many years, returned to Neepawa, Manitoba to reside.

Dennis Twomey was appointed Sheriff of the district. Announcement was made in Alberta Gazette (Judicial District of Camrose).

Laboratory tests prove Camrose water first class.

First teacher's convention was held in the Normal School.

Mrs. G. G. Stewart passed away in Ottawa. She and Mr. Stewart were among the town's first settlers.

Corp. Theo Bailey returns from France, was wounded in wrist and was in an Edmonton Hospital.

A meeting was held in the town hall, attended by farmers from the surrounding districts who formed an association to deal with grain and livestock. Shares were sold in the United Grain Growers Co. Sixty delegates attended the meeting.

## 1918

### 600 PEOPLE STRICKEN IN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

T. Solfleet wins the Military Medal during the Passchendaele fighting.

C. O. Peterson who came to Camrose in 1909, passed away in 1918.

Camrose Exhibition goes on big "B" Circuit of Western Fair Association, of which there are fifteen members.

The U.G.G. sold 20 carloads of hogs at 18¢.

Three boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boudreau and according to Mrs. White Bear, an elderly half-breed woman who is well known in the town, the children were perfectly healthy.

Rev. William Connolly, early Methodist Minister of Camrose church, passes in Edmonton.

Change in V. E. Forster business, Lewis Hartman and A. L. Halstead take over retail end of the business.

Camrose band organized with 12 members. Pete Tronnes in charge of band as leader.

Party of 12 motor from Nebraska to Camrose. L. K. Kvam, shareholder in the Tanner Lumber Co., located in Camrose.

Camrose Motor Club held auto parade on second day of fair.

Z. H. Hills built four new cottages on main street, south of the court house.

City Dray business which had been owned by Alex Leitch passed to the hands of Alex Webb, who will have under his control four drays, three teams and two coal wagons.

The C.P.R. flower garden under the care of Mr. Freemantle is a lovely beauty spot, especially when viewed from the train.

A. E. Torrie, Inspector of Schools at Macleod, to teach Mathematics and Psychology at the Normal School.

Maland and Ofrim start hardware and install gasoline pump.

Camrose organizes to fight influenza epidemic which has caused many deaths in the Camrose North area. A week later 600 cases of the disease were reported in Constituency of Camrose.

Isolation hospital which was in charge of Miss Peterson, closed.

Camrose town was under a ban owing to the 'flu epidemic, but was not quarantined. Mrs. F. L. Willard, wife of manager of the Alberta Lumber Co., dies of 'flu.

## ~~~~~ 1919 ~~~~

### SEVENTY - TWO PASSENGER TRAINS THROUGH WEEKLY

T. Martin and son, representing the Barton Cattle Company of Sioux City, Iowa bought 341 cattle and shipped from Camrose yards, at a price of \$40,000.

Shasta Cafe opened in building vacated by Camille David and operated by Edmonton men.

A. Maland, who was a clever ski performer, won two cups and two medals at the Banff Carnival.

Mayor V. E. Forster sold machinery business to Mr. Weirba of Leduc, in order to devote his time to affairs of the town of Camrose.

Members of the United Grain Growers Livestock Company met and formed a shipping association. President, Lew Hutchinson; Vice-President, Dr. Haworth and Secretary, P. Slattery.

Stettler's Citizen Band visited Camrose and furnished a rousing band concert, followed by a dance. A special car was used for the purpose of conveying the musicians.

Pte. Frank Forster returned with the famous 49th Battalion. He was in France and saw heavy fighting in Camrai.

New engine at power plant carried its first load on Saturday, 180 h.p., increasing considerably power output of the plant.

Athletic Club formed with 30 members. Ed. Matson President and Mr. Hales Grew later into Athletic Association, affiliated with larger towns in Provincial Athletic Association, under the leadership of H. L. Rushton.

Tanner Lumber Co., bought out by Wells Lumber Co., of Sedgewick.

Great War Veterans met in the Arlington Hotel to organize a Great War Veteran's Association. The meeting was arranged by A. H. Coles, business manager of the Western Veteran, Edmonton, and Pte. B. Thieme.

Rifle Club was organized by High School boys. Officers appointed were instructor, Mr. Forde; President, John Badner; Secretary, Emmett Mohler; Treasurer, Olivei Hough.

Charles W. Smith, optometrist of Elmo, Ont., locates in Camrose.

World War formally ended with signing of Peace Treaty at Versailles.

F. L. Farley and Dick Engebretson took a trip to Fort Mc-

Murray by rail, canoe and trail. Includes an interesting description of northern Alberta in 1919.

Lieut. T. Solfleet returns. Was 1914 war veteran and winner of the Military Medal.

Miss Petra Sater won a silver medal with a perfect paper, 100% in a music examination in Theory. Miss Ada Smart of Camrose was her tutor.

The Imperial Oil tanks and warehouse addition were set up at a cost of \$14,000. The company first started doing business in Camrose in 1909 as a barrel station without any equipment. By 1910 business had increased and a warehouse was built for a 316 barrel capacity.

C. H. Robinson, formerly assistant principal at the Practice School and a returned war veteran, was appointed to the principalship.

Camrose sets record for province in Grade 11 and 12 and Grade 8 examinations.

Infantile paralysis made its appearance in districts surrounding Camrose. There were no cases reported in or near Camrose.

Alex McCrae returned to old job as agent of the G.T.P. Station after returning from overseas.

Mrs. Francois Adam sold the Ford Garage property to Hamel and Curtiss of Bawlf. Mrs. Adam stated that the present staff at that time would be retained by the new owners.

The Town of Camrose was clear of liabilities in 1919 for the first time since 1905.

Brody's new store near the Market Square, to open October 10 with H. S. McIntyre, returned war veteran as manager. He was a member of 196th Battalion.

Mayor V. E. Forster disposed of barley off 40 acres for \$1500.



**THE ARLINGTON HOTEL**—Built in the winter of 1904-05 by Ole Bakken, it was on Lots 17 and 18, Block 3. He sold the hostelry to V. Matejka and his wife Teresa in 1905. This hotel was conducted by the Matejka's until 1928 when they built the Alice Hotel on the site of the old Windsor, which had been lost by fire.



**THE HEATHER BRAE BAND IN 1908**—The parade is headed toward the CPR station. The driver of the band wagon is Frank Carter, owner of the second team of horses. The first team of dapple greys belonged to Carl Wabel.

## 1920

NEW CEMETERY OPENED UP;  
OLD ONE CROWDED OUT

The growth of Camrose was revealed in the school. Principal Robinson of the Practice School reported to the ratepayers' meeting, there were 36 to 41 pupils in all rooms where 36 was considered a limit.

L. E. Martin completed several business transactions when he disposed of his McLaughlin Automobile Agency to Alf. Christenson, his auction business to A. D. Campbell and his residence to Mr. G. Lowry. Mr. Martin was in business nine years, was a leader in the province as a car salesman and sold 156 cars in the last year he did business here.

Dr. W. H. Craig, Irving Hills and Casey Anderson returned with two moose as their trophies from a two week's hunting trip.

C. L. Langbell installed a new photographic wonder machine to keep his Photograph Studio up-to-date. The Eastman projection machine, the first of its kind shown in Calgary. None of these machines were placed in either Edmonton or Calgary at that time.

Hon. Geo. P. Smith and his brother, N. Smith, were victims of an automobile accident 6 miles west of Camrose resulting in a broken collar bone for N. Smith and Mr. Geo. P. Smith had a badly fractured shoulder and nose and bruises.

The new cemetery was reported in use and eight graves were moved from the old cemetery to the new. Mayor Forster and Councillors Pratt, Russell, Johnstone and Younge attended the meeting.

C.N.R. surveyors were working south of town surveying a connecting line between the C.N.R. and the Grand Trunk road 6 miles and by so doing planned to dis-

continue use of the large bridge over the Battle River at Duhamel.

Rev. Archdeacon Howcroft, M.A., was appointed Anglican Minister.

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and party were welcomed by a large crowd of citizens on Friday morning when they arrived in Camrose. The Camrose Citizen's Band struck up some lively airs as the train pulled into the station drawing a private car bearing the Liberal leader and his party on a tour of the West. Sixty persons sat down to the bountiful banquet tendered by the Board of Trade.

John L. Loveseth included the Chevrolet automobile agency with his other oil agencies in his show room opposite the post office.

Frank and James Mohler opened a grain office on Main Street just north of Greenwood and Knight's butcher shop. At one time they owned three elevators, but at that time only one. It was located in Chaton.

One hundred and six persons attended Normal.

Silver cups were presented prizes by the Horticultural Society at the second successful exhibition of the society.

600 people attend the Third Annu-  
ales Week in the Lutheran College  
with three services daily.

The first public rest room was opened in town. The plans were laid by members of the Board of Trade and U.F.A. Lutheran College held first meeting after nine years of service. P. C. Pederson headed a board elected to arrange for yearly reunions. Ten diplomas were presented. The class averaged 65 students during the year.

School children celebrated Canada's birthday at one of the first celebrations of its kind held in town. Rural children joined in the program.

The Methodist congregation held a banquet and burned the mortgage on their church. Mr. C. G.

Cornelle, B.A., B.D., who preached the dedicatory service fifteen years earlier, occupied the chair for the occasion. The achievement was the work of the L.A. of the church.

The Standard Grocery business changed hands, H. Foucar and H. A. Jensen, both well known in the town, purchased the business from Mr. Asp.

The younger members of the Methodist Church organized the Epworth League with J. B. Francis as president.

John Loveseth purchased the premises on Main Street occupied by the undertaking parlors from E. O. Haukedal. The building became the show room for Dodge motor cars.

Mrs. J. W. Russell passed quietly away. A very large congregation paid their respects at the funeral.

Alberta Library Association was formed with Dr. F. A. Nordbye of the Camrose Library Board as a member of the executive.

Population of Camrose 2188.

Standard Oil Co. added 2 more steel tanks at their wholesale outlet to take care of increased business.

The Shasta Cafe purchased the building which housed their cafe. Prospects of Duggan & Gau building.

## 1921

LOCAL RED CROSS BRANCH ORGANIZED

The Minister of Health, Edmonton sent a telegram to the local Municipal Council of Lloyd George conveying the news that the Camrose Hospital District had been established. Mr. A. C. McKay had been busy organizing the district embracing the area east beyond Bawlf, west midway to Wetaskiwin, north to Kingman and south to Bashaw and Edberg, including some 40 townships.

Camrose High School debating team won the U.F.A. trophy. Leander Gau and Grant Stickle were the Camrose debaters.

H. Hedger of the Hedger Studio left to attend the graduate course for photographers at the Leading College of Photography in the U.S., having spent three years in business in Camrose.

Grand Trunk Railway Superintendent Brown announced the Duhamel bridge would be torn down and trains would run over C.N. tracks to Battle Siding, using the C.N. station and freight sheds. The Grand Trunk lines ran into town from the north on the diamond north of town, and the Board of Trade seized the opportunity to ask for express delivery in Camrose.

E. B. Spark put the "go" on the early gopher by sponsoring a contest with prizes. 11,402 gophers were disposed of with the Swea School, Miss E. Munson, teacher, winning first prize with 1732 gopher tails turned in.

Death of the Indian Chief, Ermine Skin, at Hobbema, removed from the west one of its historic figures, a native of the west, who lived in the Edmonton district his last 94 years. Tied with the early furtraders, his name was linked with the Riel Rebellion but he eventually became a loyal Canadian citizen.

The local militia started off with a good roll of young men, the first meeting was in charge of Major W. V. Lamb of Camrose and Col. Daly of Sedgewick.

District Organizer Major Essen organized a Red Cross branch in Camrose with a large membership.

J. Watson Younge, elected Grand Master of Alberta Masons; musical abilities of Miss Gwen Taylor won honors; Robert Kerr, father of Paddy Kerr, becomes prominent in

Irish politics; Free deliveries of C.N.R. express were announced for July 1.

V. W. Smith, farmer's candidate, won out in the election over George P. Smith, years an accountant for Manning Sutherland Lumber Co., and 5 years in the same capacity for the Francoeur Bros., were accorded farewell parties on the eve of their departure for Edmonton.

## 1922

### LOCAL BUTTER-MAKER WINS ELEVEN DOMINION PRIZES

Mixed farming train which toured the province was centre of attraction in town.

Ski tournament drew largest crowd in history of town with an attendance of 1400 people. The Sons of Norway held the centre of the arena in their exhibition of wholesome sport, and George Sjolie, an entrant, standing high on the prize list.

Merchant's Bank sign taken down and replaced by sign of Bank of Montreal. The Merchant's Bank opened in 1905 with Frank Pike manager and Kid MacLean assistant. It was the first bank to serve the town, prior to that time all banking was done in Wetaskiwin.

A great crowd attended the unveiling on main street of the monument, a memorial to the soldiers. The monument was erected by the Harry Connor Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and Major W. V. Lamb stepped forward to unveil the monument. Mrs. J. B. Scott of the Heather Brae-Albury district paid a lovely tribute to her son, Joe Scott, and other sons, by laying a wreath of white roses.

J. Watson Younge and J. Adair announced dissolution of partnership in their store. They

were pioneer merchants. J. Adair continued in the business here and J. Watson Younge went back to eastern Canada.

Carl Anderson, butter maker in Camrose Creamery, won 11 prizes among 85 entries from all over the Dominion with Alberta entries predominating at Calgary fair competitions.

E. B. Spark, owner of the local book store and very well known in town, passed away.

The Boy Scouts organized Troop No. 1 with W. E. Doble as Scout Master.

Dr. P. F. Smith and F. P. Layton returned from a trip over the E.D. and D.C. railway that took them as far as Waterways in the company of Hon. V. W. Smith, Minister of Railways and Telephones in the Provincial Govt.

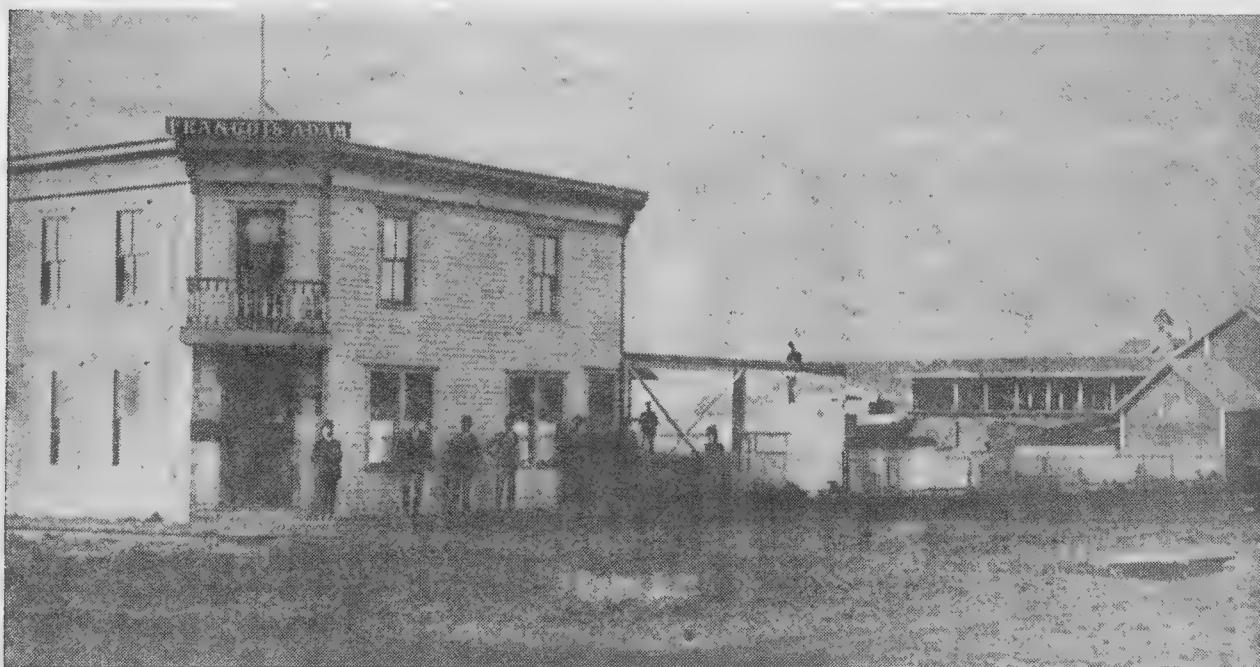
Sixty smartly uniformed Practice School young men paraded at the Normal School before Cadet Captain Roland Fisher for the presentation of the R. B. Bennett Shield which they won last year in competition with 35 cadet companies in various parts of the province.

J. B. Taylor took over the house furnishings business from J. A. Younge & Co., to add to his business of that type and to leave J. A. Younge and Co. free to go into the Ladies' Ready-to-Wear.

Growth in Camrose was revealed through an interesting building expansion including the Canadian Oil Garage; Arlington Hotel alterations and addition of dining room facilities; addition to Lanbell Studio; Christenson Garage; Power House and machinery; expansion of Imperial Oil warehouse.

Mrs. E. Papineau, resident on Railway avenue achieved wonderful success in growing small fruits including raspberries, strawberries, and Rocky Mountain cherries.

Oil



Located on the present Bank of Montreal corner. Duncan Sampson's general store was across the street where Ofrim & Maland's store now stands. Francois also had his J.P. and Notary Public offices in this building, and the sign on the fence proclaims Fairbanks scales. This building, originally the Stoney Creek Lumber Company of Adam's had squatted on the road allowance near Sampson's store before the townsite started. After Sampson had purchased the first lot, Adam followed suit and re-located at this spot.

# ~~~~~ 1923 ~~~~

## TWO MAJOR FIRES REPRESENT \$62,000.00 LOSS

With the issue November 29, 1923 the Camrose Canadian launched into its 16th year of publication, having been incorporated in 1909. The Camrose Mail having served the community some years previously.

The Rogers Lumber Yards Ltd., purchased the H. J. Wells Lumber Co., with head offices at Camrose and included several lumber yards in surrounding towns.

An intermediate hockey team is formed to take it's place along with the senior town team, the high school team and the Normal aggregation. Hon. V. W. Smith is the Honorary President and Irving Hills, President.

Fire broke out in the Shasta Cafe, completely destroying the cafe, the adjoining buildings including the confectionery, Diana Sweets and the Ofrim and Maland Hardware. Loss was estimated at \$40,000.

George Lowry was chosen Mayor for the Town of Camrose for 1923-24 term, having been elected by acclamation.

A. J. Fender who had been in Camrose since 1918 and connected with U.G.G., purchased the retail candy business of Lively and Adams.

Camrose suffered it's second fire loss in a year with the loss of the Windsor barn and the Manning-Sutherland Lumber shed with a total loss of \$22,000.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the Conservative party in the Canadian parliament and Senator Griesbach visit Camrose.

One of the earliest pictures available, looking north down Main Street. The portion of the building on the extreme left is the first store of Duncan Sampson, located next to the lumber yard of Francois Adam. Mr. Sampson purchased the first townsite lot, on the corner of First Street and First Avenue and built a new store building in 1906, which is still the present building of Ofrim & Maland Hardware. Further down the street can be seen a real estate office and the Smith Brothers general store. The drug store (now the Camrose Drug) was operated by Eugene M. Hymen. In 1905, Humphrey L. Higgs had erected the drug store, with Hymen buying him out.



# ~~~~~ 1924 ~~~~

## ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Dr. Sperber and Wilhelm Keler of the German Immigration Association, Hamburg, Germany, visited Camrose with a colonization project in view.

A toboggan slide for children was prepared just west of Mr. Spokely's house on Government Road corner.

Thousands of mallard ducks were starving in the January weather in the Bashaw district. A telegram was received by F. L. Farley from Ottawa asking him to investigate and report the plight of the birds. Contributions of grain for feed were requested.

The I.O.D.E. social service projects for the year included the beautifying of the memorial plots in the cemetery and at the monument.

Chas. Duggan gave a plot of ground for erection of two houses for Hebridean (Scotch Settlers). The immigrants learned the Canadian method of farming before

moving out on their own farms, and then two more families would take their place in the houses.

U. Hillstrom, Swedish jumper, captured first prize at Camrose Ski Tournament. Twenty-five entrants took part with all classes included.

Evergreen Municipality prepared to wage war on gophers with poison.

Gravel and sand was being hauled for Sisters of Providence Hospital. The contract for the construction was let to Poole Construction Co.

Eighty veterans observed the 7th Vimy Anniversary at a banquet. Forty-five Camrose veterans and 35 visiting veterans attended.

The Camrose Rotary Club held their inauguration meeting in the dining room of the Arlington Hotel. President Jake Saunders presided over a membership of eighteen.

P. Laing resigned his position as agent of the Imperial Oil Co., following a number of years of service. Thomas McWhirter took over the new duties as agent.

20,000 pounds of butter from the P. Burns creameries at Wetaskiwin and Camrose going to Panama Canal to the British Isles. Carl Anderson, who had won a reputation for making butter of a special grade, was in charge of the butter making which drew favorable comment when graded.

Forty-five boys attend the Rotary Camp at Miquelon Lake which was the first effort of the club along the lines of boys' work. Ven. Archdeacon G. Howcroft and Frank Farley were in charge of the camp throughout the four days.

The 16th Fair was a success. There were 64 exhibitors and nearly 1200 entries were prepared for judging.

St. Mary's Hospital was officially opened Sunday, Oct. 19. His Grace Archbishop O'Leary performed the simple but impressive ceremony of laying the corner stone.



Haley and Stanley Nelson of the Parkland district, drilled this well in Camrose in 1912 for the water works project. Picture was taken by C. L. Langbell.

passed away.

The market reports quoted No. 1 Northern wheat at \$1.72 per bushel.

A new local lumber yard under the management of President D. Raymond Francoeur, managing director F. Ferland and secretary E. E. Ouellette, has purchased the Camrose Lumber Co., at a price of approximately \$13,000, from Mr. McFee.

Sisters of Providence, St. Mary's Hospital, gave the first donation, \$10.00 to open the fund for the Rotary Club's swimming pool project.

The U.G.G. elevator north of the C.P.R. tracks was completely destroyed by fire March 12. The loss of approximately \$12,000 was covered by insurance.

President F. J. Slight, chaired a meeting of the Camrose War Veteran's association whereby members voted to form the local organization into a branch of the Great War Veteran's Association.

George Tate, Duhamel, purchased

a residence in Camrose from Mrs. Francois Adam.

Sisters of Providence installed the very latest in X-ray machines in St. Mary's Hospital.

J. A. Dobry, Killam, sold his lumber yard at that point to the Beaver Lumber Co., and purchased an interest in the Camrose Lumber Co., Ltd.

P. Borud installs the very latest optical equipment in his optical room.

Mr. Gus Gilbertson purchased the Alberta Lumber Co. property which had been vacant for some time.

Burns Creamery, with C. Anderson the manager, gave the information that eggs were to be shipped from Camrose in carload lots.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. W. Jackson and 7 children among the first settlers from Birmingham, England, to arrive on the British immigration scheme handled by the Soldiers' Settlement Board in Camrose. They settled in the Dinant district.

## 1925

### VETS FORM LOCAL BRANCH OF GREAT WAR SERVERS

Miss Donaldada Dickie and Miss E. M. Burnett entered the author's field with the printing of school text books. Both ladies were teachers in Camrose.

Jerry Twomey was appointed as District Manager of the Dominion Life Assurance Co., with headquarters in Edmonton.

John Douglas, Mayor, and all members of the town council were re-elected by acclamation, making an election unnecessary.

Mr. Walter Scott, B.A., former head of the Mathematics section of the Camrose Normal School in Camrose for a period of four years,

Members of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches decided to organize their congregations in Camrose into the Union making possible plans to proceed with the building of a new United Church in Camrose.

Building contracts let by the Municipal Council were over the \$36,000 mark.

Duncan Sampson who was a pioneer merchant in town operating the business known as the Flag Store, opened a general store on main street of Camrose after an absence of two years when he was in business in a store in Kingman.

The Alberta Pacific elevator Co. dismantled their elevator along the C.P.R. tracks. It had done business for 20 years and was replaced by another with a 40,000 bushel capacity.

Ranks of the pioneers was broken in the passing of Mrs. R. B. Price.

In the passing of Wm. (Billy) Duggan, another of the town's early pioneer business men passed away at Huntington Park, California. Three brothers, Charles, Paul and Tom are resident here.

## 1926

**CLOSED IN SKATING RINK  
BUILT FOR CHILDREN**

A new engine has arrived for the power plant and a new switchboard had been installed to take care of the engine.

Albert W. Mittlestadt who came to the Camrose district in 1900, passed away at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Sten Gunderson, a pioneer who homesteaded 6 miles north of Camrose in 1901, passed away.

Ten baseball teams entered in the tournament at the Camrose Fair with the Killam team victorious.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Sampson, pioneer residents of the town, were honored on the eve of their departure to the Pacific Coast to reside when town folks gathered in the town hall.

601 pupils were registered in the public schools, 465 in the practise school and 136 high school students registered for the year starting 1926.

Mrs. Harry Foucar passed away. She came to Edmonton when a small child with her parents, settled 7 miles south east of Camrose and in 1907 she married Harry Foucar, an early Camrose business man.

Supported by residents of the town, juniors and seniors, the closed skating rink was built during the summer. A dance floor was erected in one end and the Elks' held a carnival for a week.

F. M. "Mac" Smith was the winner of one of six University of Alberta matriculation scholarships, based on the results of the June examinations.

The newly completed building of the United Church was duly dedicated on Sunday. Rev. J. M. Millar, D.D., conducted the service.



Picture taken from the south end of Main Street. Mrs. Peter Scramstad and her daughter, Gunda (Mrs. Molwick of Kingman)

## 1927

### **INFANTILE PARALYSIS BECOMES EPIDEMIC**

The fire truck purchased for the use of the Fire Department had proved a worthwhile investment as all fires were quickly quelled the past year.

Seven cars were burned, which were owned by Camrose citizens and stored in the Camrose Auto Supplies Garage in the first large fire in a period of a year's time.

H. H. Johnstone built a 20-foot addition of brick and tile to building purchased from Hugh Bertles. Langbell's Studio moved into the building vacated by Mr. Johnstone.

Sons of Norway Terje Viken, was organized with Martin Lind the first president.

Roth and Glatiotis became established in their new premises still known as the Pioneer Garage, which was formerly Auto Supplies.

Hugh McAfee purchased the Paulson-Curtiss Ford agency and took possession in August. The business was originally started by Francois Adam and sons in 1916. Other owners were Hamill & Curtiss, Mr. Hamill selling out to Mr. Paulson.

The 60th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada was celebrated in a giant jubilee celebration in Camrose on July 1st. The great bonfire was lighted by Margaret Dowling, Ohaton, the child found to have the premier claim to the longest Canadian lineage of any child in the district, tracing her ancestors in Canada back to 1730. The Elks' 35-piece band added to the celebration as well as a brilliant array of fire works.

A deal was put through whereby Oscar Adams, New Norway, came into possession of the Cockshutt Farm Machinery agency owned by V. E. Forster.

Byers Bros., proprietors of the Camrose Community Flour Mill, built an addition to the mill.

The corner stone for the new Masonic Temple was laid by M.W. Bro. Geo. Cruickshank, Grand Master A.F. and A.M.

There were 79 entries in the 2nd. Annual Golf Tournament with

approximately 50 of them visitors.

Infantile paralysis reached epidemic proportions in 1927 and Camrose undertook an extensive program to curb the disease.

The graduation exercises were largely attended when five nurses on the training staff at St. Mary's Hospital graduated. They were—Amelia Bronberg, Camrose; Flossie Kellington, Jr., Sask.; Kathleen Bosley, Camrose; Edna B. Lyseng, Armena, and Marie Gronberg of Camrose.

H. P. Curtiss purchased the Hudson-Essex automobile agency from C. R. Pearson. Mr. Curtiss erected a new garage.

\$500,000 was realized from the sale of school lands in the Camrose district.

The Masonic building being completed, J. A. Younge moved his store to the spacious ground floor of the new building.

J. T. Johnson, proprietor of the Camrose Job Press, moved last week to his new quarters in the front portion of the basement in the new Masonic Temple building.

Mr. Chris Roth who came to Canada in 1901 and settled in the Camrose district in 1902, passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Atkinson.

Thos. Evans passed away in his 70th year. He came to Camrose in 1913. His farm, southwest of Camrose was operated by his sons.

## 1928

### **CAMROSE RADIO STATION C4HS GOES ON AIR**

George Lowry of Camrose expanded his commercial business by purchasing the dry goods stock of Marshall Ltd., in Wetaskiwin and also acquired the Burns Block, south side of main street in which to house the stock which was expanded to include a grocery stock. The Camrose store was in charge of T. Wilson, a business associate.

The ratepayers' annual meeting revealed the fact that housing fell far short of the demand in 1927. Business places and churches were developed more in the past year than at any time in the history of the town.

Brody's Ltd. purchased the property that housed the Camrose Cafe immediately south of their store location.

A horse club was organized through the Exhibition Association with farmer members.

Camrose business men were setting an example in their efforts to keep the winter roads open to Camrose for motor traffic.

Ninety persons attended the Elks' first annual banquet held in the Arlington hotel. J. Nordmoe, Western Canada Ski Champion, and Paul Gotaas, winner of the 28-mile cross country race at Jasper, were introduced and honored as guests.

Head office of the Plunkett and Savage, wholesalers in fruit, announced opening of branch warehouse in Camrose.

New industry was established in Camrose when the Camrose Creamery started manufacturing ice cream.

Langbell broadcasting station, C4HS successfully broadcast the sermon of Rev. E. C. Hansell of the Camrose Baptist Church. He received 15 letters of appreciation of the broadcast.

Work has started by the Department of Public Works on Highway No. 13.

Members voted to enter the Camrose band in the contest to be held in Edmonton. Thos. Fishwick of Stettler trained the band.

An invitation dance marked the formal opening of the new Alice Hotel on the site where the former Windsor Hotel burned down.

Frank L. Farley let the contract to Thos. Nash, local carpenter for a one storey brick and tile building on the east side of main street, 25x50 feet. Lloyd-George Municipal office and E. A. Pearce electrical shop were housed in the new building.

The Camrose School Board carried out an extensive program of beautification of the High School grounds, by planting trees and shrubs.

Building during the month of June included an addition to the Lowry Store that increased the frontage on the building another 25 feet; an addition to the Pearce building increased the floor space of Peace Electric and Bertle's Drug Store. The Texas Oil Co. constructed a warehouse and erected tanks in Camrose, north of the C.P.R. tracks.

The Board of Trade arranged a Camrose District Exhibit for the Fair, 2,000 kiddies enjoyed the hospitality of the Elks' at the Fair.

In August the building program

added new businesses. P. M. McCabe, an Edmonton, man, an expert harness maker, opened up a harness and shoe repair business in the building vacated the week previous by Wm. Fowler. The British-American Grain Co. of Winnipeg built an elevator with a capacity of 40,000 bushels, along the C.N.R. tracks. A new Royal Bank building was also erected on the property just south of the Olson Block on the west side of main street, Thomas Robertson, a member of the Hoover and Robertson plumbing firm, passed away. He came to Canada in 1904 and to Camrose in 1911.

203 Normal students registered for the fall and winter term.

The corner stone of the new Norwegian Lutheran Church was laid Sept. 16. The church has a seating capacity for 350 persons, one of the largest churches here.

Considerable trackage was laid by the C.N.R. railroad to provide additional storage space for 120 cars, a new freight shed was built to provide for the increased freight handling.

Dedicatory services were conducted in the new Baptist Church on Sept. 30.

Expansion of business made additional storage tanks necessary at the local Imperial Oil warehouse.

# PIONEERS...

## *A Few of the Men of Worth and Wisdom Who Helped Lay the Foundations of Camrose*

It is fitting that the living pioneers who have survived the development of Camrose from a Hamlet, to a Village, to a Town and finally on to the status of a City should be honored in these pages. Four of these men honored herein are actually in business now. Francois Adam, now nearing his 99th. birthday, is rightfully considered the Father of Camrose.



FRANCOIS ADAM

Belgian born Francois Adam, who is looking forward to his 99th birthday next January, has been linked with the history and growth of Camrose and district for close to seventy years. Born at Dinant, Belgium, and educated in the University of Louvain, Mr. Adam was a classmate of Padrewski, and lost a small fortune after World War One trying to run food through the blockade to the Polish homeland of Padrewski. Educated as a civil engineer, Mr. Adam did survey work for the Grand Trunk Pacific transcontinental railroad, and later the C.P.R., having a very active hand in the development

of the townsite of Stoney Creek, now Camrose. The wide main street in Camrose can be directly attributed to the result of Mr. Adam's negotiations with the C.P.R. Francois Adam was frequently a guest of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his wife after he first came to Canada. His tales of frontier fur trader days are always interesting. His indomitable spirit was demonstrated recently when he most ably responded to honors bestowed upon him at five public functions. He was always a friend to the Indians during their disturbed position with the coming of the white man.



C. L. LANGBELL

"Chris" Langbell has the distinction of being the oldest active businessman in Camrose, in terms of years in business, for Langbell Studios have been in constant operation since established in 1906. Radio has been his lifetime hobby and his station C4HS, going on the air in February of 1928, was the first radio station in Camrose, on a wave length of 250 meters and equipped with a 10-watt transmitter with a daylight range of around 8,000 square miles. His first studio was on the west side of Main Street, later used by Modern Laundry. His new studio was built in 1910 when his brother, Emil, joined him in business. Mr. Langbell was present at the official ceremonies, held in Edmonton in 1905, initiating Alberta as a province, when the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, was the speaker. He stood directly below Sir Wilfrid when the official photograph of the occasion was taken.



CHAS. DUGGAN

Charlie Duggan was one of

three Duggan brothers to come to Camrose in 1906, the other two being Bill, now deceased, and Tom, a farmer residing next to the City boundaries. Charlie immediately set himself up in the livestock business and a couple of years later was joined by Joe Gau, who had been operating a butcher shop in Daysland, in setting up a meat market in Camrose. This business has grown and developed into the present Duggan's Foodland and Locker Storage Plant, with his son, Fred, associated with him. Charlie's son, Joe, is associated with his father in the livestock business, which embraces large feed lots on the farm as well as livestock shipping business.



CHAS. T. BURROWS

Charlie Burrows was thoroughly schooled in the building trades when he came to Canada from England in 1908. After a year in Edmonton he settled in Camrose. He has operated a general contracting business here since that time, the business now known as Chas. T Burrows & Sons. Many of the best buildings in Camrose were built by him, or under his direction.



C. S. (STAN) BAILEY

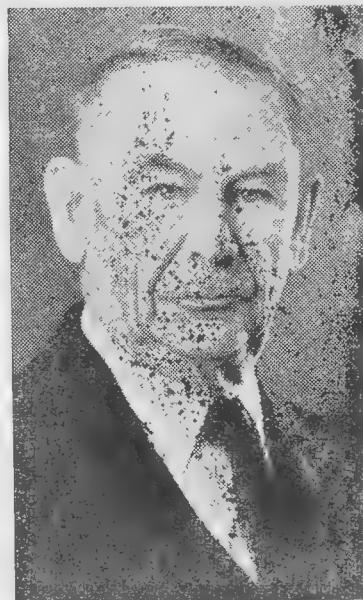
A resident of Camrose since 1907. First associated with Far-

ley and Twomey, later entering the theatre field. Has the distinction of holding the longest record for individual ownership and operation of a theatre in all Canada, exceeding 34 years.

#### HARRY FOUCAR

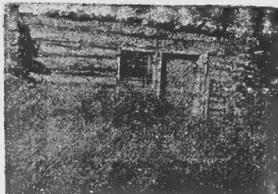
(Also among the living pioneers is Harry Foucar, postmaster and hardware merchant, now retired and living at the Coast). \*

Harry Foucar, the first postmaster in Camrose, tells the humorous tale of political skulduggery which brought him his appointment. As a convenience to the new citizens of the town of Camrose, the Wetaskiwin post office sorted out the mail for here and put it in an open mail bag for the carrier to leave at Sampson's Store, as he drove on to Heather Brae and other points east. The custom was for the bag to be dumped on the floor and each man dive in to retrieve what mail there was for him. Standing beside George P. Smith one day when the mail arrived, Mr. Foucar suggested the need for a local post office. George P., as he was commonly known, asked if Foucar would take the job if he got him the appointment. Foucar agreed. In a very short time the appointment came through, and Camrose had a post office of its own.



JOHN W. RUSSELL

The first School Principal in Camrose, 1907. Is honored by having a large school named after him in the Jubilee City. Was elevated to the position of School Inspector in 1913. Besides being a keen educationist, he was an ardent member of the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Russell and Dr. P. F. Smith carried on a continuous friendly feud over their gladioli blooms, and for years people enjoyed the concentrated beauty of his choice flowers as they walked by his gardens. In his late declining years, Mr. Russell is residing with his daughter in London, Ontario.



#### THE ROMANCE OF THE OLE BAKKEN SHACK

So many tales have been told about the original Ole Bakken shack that it is hard to sort them out. Here again Harry Foucar, now a resident of Vancouver, comes to the rescue. He says there originally was a little stream that drained into Stoney Creek, starting beyond where the oil company supply tanks are now located and trickling down past where is now the Legion Hall, on past the Corner Drug location and through a slough where Ferris Motors is now located, and down a little ravine, now filled in, through the yards of the C.L.B.I. Ole Bakken built his original shack on the slopes of this ravine, not the banks of Stoney Creek, and it faced east. Its actual location was on what

is now 53rd Street, in front of the Woskett residence. Ole Bakken was a robust man and he wanted water close to his door.

Mr. Foucar also states that the slough where Ferris Motors and

the I.H.C. buildings now stand, was a favorite shooting spot for wild ducks, and many a morning he joined other hunters in taking a bag of game from the waters there.

## Mayors of Camrose

THOMAS DAHL—	1907
ABRAHAM CODE—	1908
DENNIS TWOMEY—	1909-10-14
FRANK P. LAYTON—	1911-13
DAVID SUTHERLAND—	1915-16
OLE B. OLSON—	1917-18
VICTOR E. FORSTER—	1919-22
GEORGE LOWRY—	1923-24
JOHN DOUGLAS—	1925-28
H. P. CURTISS—	1929-30
JAMES A. CODE—	1931-34
CLARENCE PEARSON—	1935-38
PERCY A. EAST—	1939-44
ROBERT H. HUME—	1945-

## Seeking Industrial Development

With the rapid expansion of industries in and around Edmonton, it is only natural that Camrose should be anticipating industrial invasion. At the present time the Byers Flour Mills, makers of Sunny Boy Cereal, are the major industry of the City. This business was established in 1926 by the late Walter Byers, who came here from Nova Scotia. The business is carried on by his sons, Laurie and Ralph. Then there is the Alberta Seed Growers' Legume Seed Cleaning Plant, the largest plant of its kind in the British Empire. Other industries here include the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool plant, up for re-building, the Imperial Lumber woodworking plant,

Price's Bakery, Shirley's Bakery, and subsidiary sheet metal workers.

#### GOOD TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Camrose is singularly fortunate in transportation facilities. The C.P.R. main line to Winnipeg from Edmonton goes through here. The C.N.R. lines to Drumheller and Calgary from Edmonton cut through Camrose, with an additional system of branch lines. These services are supplemented by well organized motor transport services.

Camrose is on a modern paved highway, No. 13, feeding in from the east from Hardisty and connecting west and north right into Edmonton.

#### NEW RADIO STATION

Camrose is now featured on the air waves by the new radio station, CFCW, opened almost coincident with the City status, in November 1954.

#### A GREAT NATURAL ASSET

Perhaps the greatest natural asset of Camrose City is the gift of nature . . . the beauty of its natural setting. The gentle slopes of the valley running through the City, the undulating hills covered with natural growth trees, the natural park that is being developed . . . all added to the human desire to make of the city a place of beautiful homes . . . a joy to the owners and occupants, and an attraction to the visitors from outside points.

## Some Names Recorded In The Early History of Camrose

If you have read through the chronology preceding this part of the book you will have been impressed by many names of pioneers who featured prominently in the City's early development. It was impossible to get pictures and cuts of all who deserve a place in this book, nor was space available for their use.

Definitely, George P. Smith should have had a place, but when the "morgue" was searched his engraving was missing.

There was Hiram Burgar who came in 1905, passing away in August, 1949. He was born in Vienna, Ontario. He rode with Frank Pike from Wetaskiwin to open the first bank in Camrose. His activities were in hardware and furniture, later devoting full time to the funeral direction business, as now carried on by his son, Rod.

There was Harry Foucar, the first postmaster, who ran same in his grocery store. He was

followed as postmaster by J. H. Rushton, which signified the change from Liberal to Conservative governments, as was the custom of the day. Mr. Foucar has retired to Vancouver. Mr. Rushton is long deceased.

There was Frank P. Layton, an early Mayor and long time business man, father of "Duff" Layton.

There was Dennis Twomey Sr., associated with many early activities in Camrose and with the

development of the coal resources.

There was R. B. Price, one of the earliest merchants, father of the late Frank Price, the late Peter Price, who lost his life in World War II, and the father of Mrs. Nick Bayko.

There was I. Z. Hills, who was here before the townsite was thought of, and many years a prominent business man, as proprietor of the Camrose Drug Store.

You will have seen the name of Dr. G. G. Stewart mentioned in several places as well as that of Dr. McEachern, who later moved to Edmonton. Dr. Lamb, who was associated with them in the early days, moved from Camrose and has recently returned to live in retirement here.

There was Gilbert Hoyme, of the firm of Hoyme & Christensen, who was a particular friend of the Scandinavians. His death came in August, 1949.

Then one comes into such names as Adair Younge and his brother, Watson Younge, prominent early merchants. Adair Younge passed away here in 1952, and Mrs. Younge now lives in St. Paul, Minn. Watson is still living in Ontario.

There was J. T. Johnson, proprietor of the Camrose Job Press for many years, his son, Rolf, continuing the business. Mr. Johnson passed away on the train while returning home from Toronto. He was prominent in Liberal politics.

Then one runs into such family names as Thomas Dahl, Fred Pratt, D. R. Francoeur, J. B. Taylor, E. V. Kerr, A. J. Ofrim, A. Maland, Ed. Thompson, the Kehoe's, Frank Mohler, Ellsworth Hills, Jack Lang, and many others.



DUNCAN SAMPSON

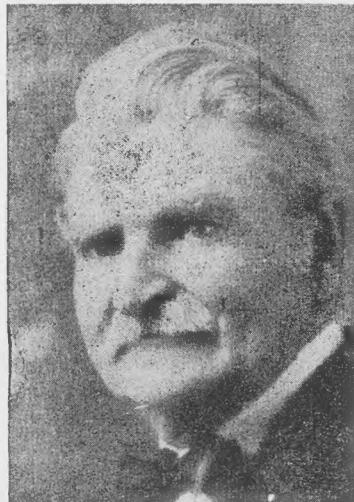
Duncan Sampson, the first merchant in Camrose, had the honor of purchasing the first townsite lot and built the first business, arriving in Stoney Creek from Ontario in 1904. He remained in business here until 1926,

when he moved to New Westminster. He sat on the Town Council from 1910 until 1913, on the School Board, and was also instrumental in helping to organize the Camrose Agricultural Society. He died in 1930.



J. K. BURGESS

James Kennedy Burgess was associated with the development of Camrose from the year 1907, the senior partner in the law firm of Burgess & McKay. He was born at Bala, Ontario, and received his law schooling at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall. He was admitted to the bar of the Northwest Territories at Wetaskiwin in 1904. He passed away Feb. 14, 1951. His son, Alex, carries on in his profession. He is also survived by Mrs. Burgess and a daughter, Mrs. Keith MacLean, of Vancouver.



DR. P. F. SMITH

Perhaps no single person in the history of Camrose left such a deep influence upon the general population as did the late Dr. P. F. Smith. Born in Prince

Edward Island, he studied at John Hopkins University and graduated as a gold medalist. He practised for a short time in Birmingham, Alabama, but the call of Canada was too strong within him. He came to Camrose in 1912, but had to write for his Canadian Medical License after coming here, associating himself with Dr. G. G. Stewart. Besides being official Doctor for the C.N.R., he won the hearts of thousands of patients by his sheer merit and his understanding of the human frailty of those enduring suffering. He passed away in 1949. He was also a keen horticulturist.



FRANK L. FARLEY

From the year 1907, all through the development of Camrose up to the time of his death in 1949, the name of Frank Farley appears as one constantly and consistently promoting Camrose. He was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, the son of John Farley, K.C. He was educated as a school teacher and tried his hand as a bank clerk. The West drew him like a magnet. He came to Red Deer in 1892 and filed on a homestead. In 1907 he came to Camrose and conducted a real estate business with Dennis Twomey, also engaging in the coal business. He became interested in the study of bird life before leaving Ontario, and after coming here authored a book entitled "Birds of the Battle River Valley". He was internationally recognized as an authority in ornithology. He inspired Dr. Arthur Twomey to enter the same field, he now being Curator of the Ornithology Division of the Pittsburgh-Carnegie Museum; also, he sparked Roland Hawkins, son of James N. Hawkins of Camrose, into the same field. Roland is now Aviculturist at the Pittsburgh Aviary-Conservatory. For seven years previous he had been associated with Dr. Arthur Twomey on the Carnegie Museum staff, going to the States from the National Museum at Ottawa.





# The Lions Club of Camrose

a member of

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

received their charter on October 8th., 1954,  
with twenty-five charter members.

The purpose of the Lions Club is outlined in the objects of Lionism.

These objectives, set as a mark to be reached by Lions  
the world over, are as follows:

To create and foster a spirit of  
"generous consideration" among the  
peoples of the world through a  
study of the problems of interna-  
tional relationship . . . .

To promote the theory and practice  
of the principles of good govern-  
ment and good citizenship . . . .

To encourage efficiency and to pro-  
mote high ethical standards in  
business and professions: provided  
that no Club shall hold out as one

of its objects financial benefits to  
its members . . . .

To unite the members in the bonds  
of friendship and good fellowship  
and mutual understanding . . . .

To provide a forum for the full  
and free discussion of all matters  
of public interest, partisan politics  
and sectarian religion alone ex-  
cepted . . . .

To take an active interest in the  
civic, commercial, social and moral  
welfare of the community.

Lions International is the world's largest and most active service club  
with 11,628 clubs in 67 countries of the world, and total membership  
exceeding 523,450 at May, 1955.

